

Blows on three fronts for IRA

Active unit held in Germany as bomb mistake kills couple

● The IRA issued an apology after one of its booby-trap bombs meant for the security forces exploded, killing an elderly man and woman in Londonderry

● West German police arrested two armed IRA suspects on the Dutch border and may have foiled a fresh attack against nearby British Army bases

● The head of the armed gang killed by the SAS in an ambush in Omagh was reputed to be the officer commanding the IRA's mid-Tyrone unit

● The IRA admitted that the three terrorists, described by police as ruthless, had been on "active service" when they were shot dead

By Paul Valley in Belfast, John England in Bonn and Stewart Tendler in London

The Provisional IRA yesterday faced a string of reversals as it was announced that the SAS had killed the commander of one of its most ruthless units.

Other reverses included the killing of an elderly couple playing good neighbours in Londonderry when a booby-trap bomb attack misfired.

In West Germany, police questioned suspected members of an IRA active service unit.

The West German arrests could damage the highly successful campaign mounted by the IRA against security forces in West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. A chance patrol by a Customs officer and his dog resulted in the arrest of two armed men and may have stopped a fresh

attack against nearby British bases.

As the IRA's leadership digested news of the German arrests, it was also forced into a public apology last night in the wake of the Londonderry bomb. Faced with the death of an elderly man and woman, the IRA admitted that its plans to ambush Security Forces on the Catholic Creggan estate had gone "tragically wrong".

The bomb was, according to an IRA statement, intended for an Army patrol which was

The Irish Government last night requested an early meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference to discuss the implications of the recent violence in Northern Ireland. Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, said he was deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation.

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scheduled to search the area. Instead it killed Mr Sean Dalton, a retired taxi driver, and Mrs Sheila Lewis, as they tried to discover what happened to a neighbour who seemed to have vanished from their block of flats.

Mr Dalton climbed through a window of the first floor flat from a balcony. The bomb was triggered when he opened one of the doors inside. The blast, which took the roof of the building, also caught the woman who was waiting by the front door. She was thrown from a balcony into a garden and buried by debris. Both were killed instantly.

Later, police interviewed the young man who was the tenant of the flat. It was claimed that he had been kidnapped by the IRA last Thursday and held in the Bogside, Londonderry, from where he was released only after the explosion.

In Belfast, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, revealed that the three men who were shot

by the SAS on Tuesday were all senior IRA members who had been involved in a range of attacks on the Security Forces.

The men, who were wearing boiler suits, balaclava helmets and gloves, were the IRA later admitted, "on active service". Police said two AK-47 Kalashnikov automatic rifles and a .38 Webley revolver were found in the car, adding: "A number of spent rounds found at the scene appeared to be consistent with the terrorists' weapons."

Tests were also being conducted on them to establish whether the weapons had been used in killings.

The three were led by Gerard Harne, aged 29, who police said was the officer commanding the mid-Tyrone unit. "He was considered by the police to be a ruthless, dedicated terrorist", the RUC said.

Harne was said to have been active member of the IRA since the late 1970s. Since 1983 he had been involved in "numerous operations, many of them against members of the security forces". He had been detained by police for questioning on several occasions. The other two men had been known to the RUC as IRA supporters since their involvement in campaigns against the H-block prisons in the early 1980s.

One of them, Gerard Harne's younger brother, Martin, aged 22, had been involved in terror incidents



since 1985. He had been responsible for the selection of IRA targets from among members of the RUC and Ulster Defence Regiment.

He was last arrested during police raids in the Omagh area last week after the bomb attack on an Army bus in which eight soldiers died.

The Harne brothers were both married and each had one child. The other man killed in the ambush was Brian Mullin, from Sixmilecross, near Ballygawley, where the attack on the bus occurred.

His brother is serving a life sentence in the Maze prison for the murder of a bus driver near Omagh whom the IRA mistook for a part-time UDR soldier. Their deaths bring to a total of 25 the number of experienced IRA volunteers who have been killed in the past 20 months.

As the RUC continued investigating the ambush, fingerprints were on their way to Belfast from West Germany where detectives are trying to identify the two men held in the early hours of yesterday.

Last night, West German police were scheduled to go to court for permission to continue questioning two men they believe are members of the IRA.

The men, equipped with arms and ammunition, were held close to big British bases at an unmarked, guarded frontier point between West Germany and the Netherlands at Waldfuehr near Heinsberg, north of Aachen early yesterday.

The men, both thought to be in their late 20s or 30s, were driving a hired Peugeot 205 registered in Mainz as they crossed the border into Germany. They may have been the advance party of an active service unit on their way to collect hidden explosives.

West German security men said they believed the men, as yet unidentified, were members of the IRA active service unit which has made attacks on British servicemen in the Netherlands, and on British military bases in West Germany since May.

The trainer who refused to tell her exhausted swimmer to give up

Channel death blamed on coach

By David Cross in London, Mac Margolis in Rio and Susan MacDonald in Paris

The captain and crew of a British trawler who tried to abort a tragic cross-Channel swim have told French police that the woman's trainer refused to end the swim when her charge was in obvious distress.

Mr Colin Cook, the owner of the 50ft Hilda May, from Folkestone, said Senhorita Renata Agondi, aged 25, from Sao Paulo, would not have died three miles off the French coast if Senhora Judith Russo, her trainer, had heeded his advice.

Senhorita Agondi was dead when she was pulled from the water on Tuesday last week and Senhora Russo has been

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charged by the French authorities with "failing to assist a person in danger".

Mr Cook, who was accompanied on the trip by Mr Graham Featherby, also from Folkestone, and Mr Mark Lewis, an American observer for the Channel Swimmers' Association, told The Times that when Senhorita Agondi set off from Shakespeare Beach at Dover at 8.25 am on August 23 she was swimming "very well", at a rate of about 80 strokes a minute.

"She was overtaking everybody else trying to swim across the Channel that day. Everything carried on as per

Continued on page 18, col 1



Senhorita Renata Agondi being "gassed" by her coach, Senhora Judith Russo, on Dover's Shakespeare beach, before her fatal Channel swim.

Walesa secures key concession

From Richard Bassett
Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, yesterday agreed to call off the damaging wave of strikes in Poland after winning a promise from the Government to discuss legalizing the independent trade union it outlawed in 1982.

Sources said that after more than three hours of talks at a government villa in Warsaw with General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Interior Minister, Mr Walesa immediately drove back to Gdansk to call off the strikes.

It was Mr Walesa's first meeting with the Polish authorities since Solidarity was banned and coincided with the eighth anniversary of

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the agreement in Gdansk that established the union.

General Kiszczak was the man who ordered Mr Walesa's internment for 11 months after martial law was imposed.

Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski, who has acted as a mediator between Solidarity and the Government, told

journalists after the brief but historic reconciliation meeting that the discussions "were a beginning not an end".

An official communiqué said that the talks had discussed the "crucial problem" of trade union pluralism including "the role of Solidarity". This part of the communiqué, representing an about-turn in seven years of government attempts to remove the name of Solidarity from all official communications, was inserted at Mr Walesa's request.

According to Solidarity sources, it was accepted by all

present at the meeting that the discussions were only the first in a series before the establishing of a "round table" involving members of the Government and the opposition.

These sources did not rule out the possibility of Mr Walesa returning to Warsaw today for a further round of preparatory talks.

Asked if Mr Walesa had been satisfied with the talks, Professor Stelmachowski said: "Yes and no. It is difficult and risky for him. He cannot go back to Gdansk today as he did in 1980 and say 'I give you free trade union'."

Saturday best

● This Saturday The Times takes on a new and colourful look. Details, page 3

WIN £182,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

● Two people shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £182,000. Prices, page 23

IN PART 2

Carnaby St goes Dutch

A Dutch property group has taken over Peachey, the group which owns London's Carnaby Street, after a fierce takeover battle. Wereldhave won control of more than 50 per cent of the shares after raising its bid to value Peachey at £282 million. Page 19

Cram injured

Steve Cram, one of Britain's best Olympic medal hopes, last night dropped out of his 1,000 metres race in Italy with a leg injury. Page 40

Degree courses

Degree course vacancies in Physical Sciences, Medicine and Biological Sciences are published today. Page 35

TIMES FOCUS

Toesside is at last starting to reap some of the benefits of the economic recovery. Special Report. Pages 25-28

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Post strike causes two-day backlog

By Roland Radd and Patrick O'Hanlon

Britain's first national post strike for almost two decades yesterday caused severe disruption throughout the country, although the Union of Communication Workers admitted that a small minority of its workers had crossed picket lines to work a morning shift, mostly in rural areas.

The Post Office said the disruption was patchy, with thousands of delivery postmen reporting for work. But it said the action over bonus payments had created a big backlog of mail which would take at least two days to clear.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the union's general secretary, yesterday met senior UCU officials. They will decide whether to widen the action when the union's strike committee meets today.

The union said only "a couple" of small sorting offices in rural areas worked yesterday.

Mr Jeremy Scutts, head postmaster for the district covering Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and part of Co Durham, said 120 delivery staff - about 7 per cent of the workforce - reported for duty and "an extremely limited service" was provided.

Just over half the 250 postal workers on the morning shift

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at Brighton, East Sussex, ignored the strike call.

The strike, the first all-out postal stoppage since 1971, meant very few ordinary letters or parcels were delivered and collected. Post Office counters are expected to operate normally today.

The stoppage is over a management scheme to introduce bonus payments for staff in South-east England to attract workers in areas with

Continued on page 18, col 8

Nine killed as Dallas jet crashes

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

At least nine people were killed and more than 30 injured yesterday when a Boeing 727 carrying 104 passengers and crew crashed off a runway at Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

The rear section burst into flames and many of the injured suffered burns. The three-man cockpit crew survived. Helicopters helped to ferry the injured to hospital.

One witness said the tail of the aircraft, which split into three on impact, "never seemed to pick up."

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman cited a problem with the left engine and landing gear, but this was still unconfirmed. The "black box" flight recorder was retrieved as an immediate investigation got under way.

Hong Kong crash, page 5

Brittan denial on licensing Clowes

By Colin Narborough

The Government was yesterday accused of negligence after Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the crashed Barlow Clowes investment group was given a DTI licence in October 1985, revealed that he had not been involved in the decision, despite his predecessor's misgivings about the firm.

Yesterday The Times revealed that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when Barlow Clowes applied for a licence in April 1985, said he "was minded... to refuse" the application and his department insisted on a number of assurances from the firm and its advisers.

The DTI's handling of Barlow Clowes, where £180 million of investors' money was put at risk, is now subject to an inquiry by Sir Godfrey Le Quesne.

Mr Tony Blair, Labour's City affairs spokesman, said that Mr Brittan's disclosure was "strong evidence of negligence" by the DTI, given that serious doubts had been raised by Mr Tebbit, the man Mr Brittan had succeeded at the DTI in September.

The licence was awarded on October 28.

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Mr Brittan told The Times: "At no stage was I informed or asked to make decisions."

He said he did not find it surprising that, as Secretary of State, he had not been asked to decide on the licensing issue.

The Westland scandal brought Mr Brittan's resignation from the Cabinet in January 1986.

Mrs Thatcher recently named him to succeed Lord Cockfield as Britain's senior member of the European Commission next year.

Karin B sails off to calls for European inquiry

By Peter Mulligan



As the toxic waste ship Karin B weighed anchor off Plymouth and left for an unknown destination yesterday, the European Commission was asked to launch an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the ship.

The request was made by Dr Jack Cunningham, the Labour Party's environment spokesman, who said aspects of the affair needed to be investigated.

He said he had urged the Commission to look into the role of the Italian Government and "of anybody in Britain involved in inviting the vessel to come here."

"The Commission has promised to consider this. There are supposed to be European Community controls over cargoes of this kind and they seem to have

been ignored or not implemented properly," Dr Cunningham said.

The vessel, which is carrying 2,000 tonnes of toxic waste, appeared likely to run into heavy weather. Gales were forecast for the south-west overnight and set to intensify in the next 24 hours.

Dr Cunningham said the real question that Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State for Environment, had failed to answer was "why did this vessel, under charter from an Italian agency, sail to British waters in the first place?"

"There is a suspicion that it was invited here by someone, perhaps secretly or surreptitiously, in the hope that once it arrived they would get the business of dealing with the cargo," he said.

Mr Edward Wilkinson, of Leigh Interests in West Midlands, which had offered to analyse the contents of the ship, said the cargo had come to Britain because the Italians knew there was the expertise here to deal with it.

He said Dr Cunningham's innuendo was to be regretted.

"He must understand that British companies, although he might not like it, have an international reputation."

The banning was a "missed opportunity". The Government had bowed to political pressure and, in so doing, had "missed a trick", he said.

An immense amount of international prestige could have been gained had the boat been allowed in, its contents repacked and made safe and only then sent back to Italy, he said.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

SLD wants ban on second homes

The purchase of holiday or second homes could be banned in Britain under powers proposed by the Social and Liberal Democrats.

The party wants prospective buyers to have to apply for planning permission for change of use if the property is not to be their main home, in a move aimed at stamping out the sale of attractive country cottages in remote corners of Britain as weekend or holiday homes.

Mr Simon Hughes, the party's environment spokesman, said it could lead to councillors fighting a local election on a mandate of banning the sale of property as holiday homes in certain areas, such as Pembrokeshire. Welsh activists have set fire to numerous holiday homes because, they argue, it raises prices out of the reach of local people and helps to destroy local communities.

Mr Hughes said he saw no problem in introducing such restrictions as the information on second homes will already be required under the Government's poll tax reforms.

Mass seal graves

Mass graves will be dug for the large number of seals expected to die from canine distemper virus among the 9,000-strong population along the coast of north Norfolk, local officials and the RSPCA decided yesterday. A spokesman said if the virus took a significant hold among the seal population the bodies would be buried in deep trenches and some might be burned. The public should not touch any seals they found on the beaches.

More than 200 beached seals have been found on the Selly Island of Annet. Officials said they were mystified.

Compensation plea

A former public schoolboy who was injured playing rugby, is challenging the High Court's rejection of his compensation claim. Mr Simon Van Oppen, aged 24, was partly paralysed when he was 16 and his legs and left arm are still weak. His claim for compensation from Bedford School was rejected by Mr Justice Bingham, who said what happened was "a tragic accident". Mr Van Oppen will ask the Court of Appeal to set aside that decision and to award him £55,000 — the amount he says he would have received had his father been told of the risks and insured him.

Accountant's pay-off

An accountant who threatened to expose alleged tax fraud by his employers is to receive a golden handshake. Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance company, has dropped an appeal against a ruling that Mr Charles Robertson, aged 49, of Wymore Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, should get his job back after being unfairly dismissed. Now lawyers are negotiating a pay-off to the former chief taxation accountant, who claims he was dismissed from the firm for threatening to expose an alleged tax fraud by the company.

Wogan driving ban

Terry Wogan, the television chat-show host, was banned from driving for two months yesterday for speeding at more than 100mph. He was driven away from the court in Faversham, Kent, by a plainclothes policeman. Wogan, of Taplow, Buckinghamshire, admitted exceeding the 70mph speed limit on the A2 at Boughton, Kent. He was fined £150 with £40 costs. Wogan challenged the evidence of PC Roland Barber, on his own in the police car following him, that he had been doing between 106 and 112mph, mainly at 112mph. He believed he had been travelling "in the 90s".

Training scheme conflict persists

By Our Employment Affairs Staff

Moderate trade union leaders believe they are heading for a damaging confrontation with the Government after the failure yesterday of TUC affiliates to agree on a compromise allowing support for the Government's £1.5 billion Employment Training programme.

However, as the Government prepared for the programme's launch today, it gave voluntary organizations involved in the scheme an "unqualified guarantee" that it would remain voluntary.

The guarantee was reiterated by Mr Brian Wolfson, the new chairman of the Training Commission.

The National Council for Voluntary Organizations, which will run a third of the project, providing 100,000 places for unemployed people, had warned the Government that it might withdraw its support if any element of compulsion were introduced.

On a second front, union leaders in favour of co-operating with the scheme said yesterday that they expected to be defeated by at least 300,000 votes when the issue is debated at the TUC congress next Wednesday.

Last week, Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, said the TUC faced a "major disaster" if it totally rejected the scheme.

Yesterday he said: "I am sad that we have missed the opportunity of writing some

good policies. We all agree on what a good training programme should contain and we all agree this scheme should be improved."

"Instead, it appears we are going to have a black and white debate on co-operation or non-co-operation. We should have united behind demands for proper improvements to the scheme."

If the TUC adopts a policy of non-co-operation, it will seriously damage relations with the Government.

Yesterday Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, who has repeatedly denied that he is considering a form of the American workfare programme where unemployed people have to work for their benefits — said the Government was adamant that the "training programme should be voluntary."

He said the ET scheme had developed out of more than a decade's experience of operating training programmes for unemployed people.

"Those opposed to the programme will not stop it," he said. "There should be no mistake: a campaign against ET is a campaign against long-term unemployment."

Mr Wolfson said he hoped to deflect criticism by "producing evidence to show those who do not believe in it that they are wrong." Unions should realize how essential training was.

The latest sign of a liberal approach in the Soviet media came after a meeting earlier this year of the American National Association of Broadcasters, attended for the first time by the heads of the Voice of America, BBC World Service and Radio Moscow.

Mr Ivars Kozbers, director

Prison power 'could shift towards racketeers'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The balance of power in an open prison could shift from staff to racketeers and their enforcers, the Chief Inspector of Prisons warns today.

Judge Tummim says in a report to Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, that staff at Ford open prison, Sussex, are concerned that power could "move to those who cynically exploit the open conditions and their fellow inmates".

Some prisoners shared the concern. "Like the staff, inmates saw the widespread infractions of the rules relating to the possession of drugs, alcohol, money and phone-cards as the principal source of danger. It was still largely individual enterprise, but once racketeering began in earnest, control would be threatened", the report says.

Selected inmates who had been interviewed did not see this as an imminent danger, but felt less safe because of a shortage of staff.

Judge Tummim's report follows concern by Ford's Board of Visitors that many men sent there were quite unsuitable for open conditions. The Board said in its annual report that several allocations of potentially dan-

gerous prisoners, coupled with reduced numbers of staff, had created a continuing threat. Police and Scottish prison authorities launched a big investigation yesterday after a replica handgun loaded with blanks was discovered within the grounds of Glasgow's Barlinnie prison hours before a visit by the Princess Royal. The gun, an imitation Magnum, was found lying under grass near the perimeter wall after a telephone call from a newspaper. Suggestions that the gun was to be used to take a prison officer hostage was dismissed as "pure speculation" by Mr Alan Walker, Barlinnie's governor. After the discovery, the Scottish Office, Mr Walker, Strathclyde Police and the Princess's protection squad agreed that the visit to the prison should go ahead. Mr Walker said authorities were under the impression that the gun had been hurled over the wall by someone out to disrupt the visit. It was made in the Princess's capacity as royal patron of the Butler Trust, a prisoners' rehabilitation group, and she chatted to inmates and presented awards.

had been accepting a limited number of "lifers" towards the end of their sentence, but the Prison Department had suggested that the lifer population could be increased from 35 to 60.

"Management and staff at Ford considered that any increase in the number of lifers would place intolerable strains on staffing and other resources", the report says. It recommends that there should be no increase in the life-sentence population until the "necessary additional resources have been provided".

Staffing levels at Ford should be reviewed urgently in the light of the prison's changing task and the anxiety of the local community.

The report also says that the introduction of Fresh Start, the new system of working for prison officers, without enough staff had resulted in unemployment for almost one fifth of the prison's inmates.

Administration staff felt abandoned and let down by the prison service, the report says. Responding to the report, Mr Hurd acknowledges in a statement today that the increased numbers of life-sentence and long-term prisoners allocated to Ford had increased demands on staff.

However, some of the staffing difficulties were transitional and the workshops were now getting back towards full capacity, Mr Hurd says.

Urgent work is already in hand to refine procedures for allocating prisoners to prisons in the lowest security category (C and D).

"We must ensure that... all proper regard is given to the security and concerns of the local community", Mr Hurd says.

A peace bid in the Holloway jail dispute is expected today with a meeting between Prison Department officials and leaders of the Prison Officers' Association.

HM Prison Ford. Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. (Home Office, London, £1.50)

SAS leads intelligence offensive to undermine terrorist brigades

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

The successful SAS operation against the Provisional IRA in Co Tyrone was seen yesterday at Westminster as the pathfinder for a more ruthless offensive against republican terrorists.

The top men in the movement have been put under intense surveillance and they now run the risk of facing undercover troops primed to respond in kind the moment they attempt a terrorist attack.

The Government's clear message to the fewer than 200 active Provisionals in the wake of the operation in Co Tyrone was that they face an immediate counter-offensive the moment they step out of line.

It is now clear that this renewed emphasis on round-the-clock surveillance, intelligence and covert operations is at the heart of the Prime Minister's review of security, the outcome of which has until now been shrouded in mystery.

Unionist politicians yesterday hoped that the tactics adopted in the ambush of the three "Provos" were part of a new determination by the Army and police to take the "war" to the terrorists.

They, and the Provisionals themselves, had been expecting the security forces to react decisively as Ministers came under pressure for action in the wake of the upsurge in violence.

Mr Ken Maginnis, the security spokesman of the Official Unionist Party, said: "I think there will be more emphasis on covert activity, intelligence, and that more resources will be made available for this sort of action and that we might see more frequent operations of this sort."

Government ministers are sensitive to any allegations that the security forces are operating a "shoot-to-kill" policy and recognize that incidents such as that in Co Tyrone have the potential for causing severe political embarrassment.

However, protests have been muted when those killed



The wrecked flat in Londonderry (top) where an IRA bomb meant for the security forces yesterday killed a man and a woman who lived in the block. Above, left to right, Brian Mallen, Martin Harte and his brother, Gerard, the IRA men shot dead by the Army in Co Tyrone on Tuesday.

have been armed and on "active service". That points to the vital importance of the security forces in the province acting on the highest-grade intelligence.

There has been evidence

for the past 15 months of a greater use of the SAS in the battle against the IRA with incidents in which a total of 14 terrorists have been killed. Eight members of the East Tyrone Brigade were killed in

an ambush at Loughgall police station in Co Armagh, three died in Gibraltar, and three in Co Tyrone.

In spite of the welcome from Unionist and Conservative politicians of tougher

action, the effectiveness of such measures is disputed. Initially, the killing of terrorists undermines the Provisionals. However, the movement has time and again shown its resilience.

Elite 'killing machine' claims 23 IRA members

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

SAS operations in Northern Ireland have now claimed the lives of 23 IRA terrorists in the 12 years since the regiment began operating officially in the province.

The long campaign of undercover operations has also cost the lives of two soldiers and three innocent civilians caught in crossfire or killed because they were thought to be IRA gunmen.

From the early days of the Ulster troubles members of the regiment worked on secondment, training troops for undercover work or taking part in single operations, but for years politicians and Army

commanders were divided over the risks of introducing such an efficient killing machine full-time into the terrorist battle.

Trained for long-term undercover operations behind enemy lines, the regiment was ideal for the rough border country where the IRA op-

erated. On the other hand its presence would be seized on by the IRA as an example of Whitehall's plan to ruthlessly suppress republicans.

A series of IRA outrages in south Armagh in 1976 tipped the scales in favour of SAS intervention. Mr Roy Mason, then Labour's Secretary of

State for Defence, ordered the SAS to begin operations along the border. Even if the actual numbers of SAS troops was small it was calculated that their reputation would dampen IRA activities. Within a year Mr Mason believed the calculation had paid off and said the regiment would op-

erate throughout the province. Known SAS operations include the deaths of three IRA bombers in north Belfast in June 1978; the death of two IRA men in Coalisland, Co Tyrone, in December 1983; the deaths of another two IRA men in February 1984 at Dunloy, Co Antrim and the ambush of an IRA unit on its way to attack an RUC station at Loughgall, Co Tyrone, in which eight terrorists died.

Ulster operations have not been without cost. Eight SAS men were tried at a Dublin court in 1977 after being arrested on the wrong side of the border. They were convicted on minor charges but freed.

Terrorists left family a bullet gift of fear

Two teenagers told yesterday of their afternoon of fear at the hands of the IRA gang shot dead by security forces in Co Tyrone.

Only hours before they were shot, the three Provisionals in an active service unit — including the local chieftain Gerard Harte — held a family hostage to hijack their car.

A bullet was left with the family to demonstrate the IRA's power over them.

Yesterday, as they recalled their experiences in the house just outside Omagh, the boys asked not to be named, saying: "This is a Republican area, it wouldn't do to give your name."

One, aged 14, said the terrorists, wearing black balaclavas and blue boilersuits and brandishing two rifles and a handgun, burst into his family's house around 2 pm on Tuesday.

They ordered the family into a back bedroom. "They got the keys of my father's car and said we must wait for two hours until they came back. They said they would leave somebody outside and we would be shot if we left the house."

Shortly after the gunmen drove off in the car, a friend, aged 16, arrived to find the telephone ripped out of the wall and the line cut.

He said yesterday: "I heard a noise from the bedroom like a bed creaking. I opened the door and the father of the house said they were being held hostage by the IRA and to join them."

"I sat down and he showed me a bullet the men had left, saying 'Anybody who tries to leave the house will be shot dead'."

"We stayed there until about 3.45 pm. One of the men came back, gave the keys back and said: 'Thanks for your co-operation, sorry for the inconvenience. Don't tell the police, you can come out of the room in five minutes.'"

When they dared to leave, the boys went to a neighbour's house and then heard two bursts of automatic fire.

The friend said: "It seems the police knew all about it. They were here very quickly as well as the helicopters. The police don't usually come out here quickly because they are vulnerable to attack in this area."

He had heard that the IRA men had hijacked a second car, a white Ford Sierra belonging to a credit agent, and were shot as they headed down the road from the house.

Police said two rifles and a handgun were found at the scene, where forensic scientists continued working yesterday around the bullet-ridden car.

Ulster operations have not been without cost. Eight SAS men were tried at a Dublin court in 1977 after being arrested on the wrong side of the border. They were convicted on minor charges but freed.

BBC rejects Soviet 'swaps'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The BBC has rejected a proposal from the head of Radio Moscow, suggested programme exchanges with the BBC and a possible "Letter from Moscow", written by a Soviet commentator.

But Mr Tusa believes such a letter would take too much editorial control out of BBC hands.

"We have never done programme exchanges with any other international broadcaster. What we are after is far greater journalistic access in the Soviet Union."

"Any journalist can arrive in Britain and write the stories they want, travel where they wish and report as they want. We should have that sort of freedom of access in the Soviet Union."

"It is far more cumbersome and bureaucratic to work as a journalist in the Soviet Union."

Mr Ivars Kozbers, director

I think openness has to occur in that way."

The Soviet approach was disclosed by Mr Tusa at a press conference called to end confusion about the naming of the BBC international radio broadcasts.

Although the term World Service has existed for a long time in BBC terminology, it has applied strictly only to the 24-hour broadcasts in English transmitted around the world, and not to the other 36 foreign language services. External Services, not World Service, was the phrase meant to embrace all BBC overseas output, English included.

From today the term External Services is being dropped, and BBC World Service will be applied to all broadcasts.

Greyhound kidnapper on the wrong track

By Robin Young

Annagh Bar, the favourite to win the Irish greyhound Derby, is on a hiding to nothing. Hiding is what she has swiftly been taken into since the theft of one her stablemates, and nothing is what the kidnappers have so far demanded for the dog they apparently took by mistake.

Mr Gerry Duffin, Annagh Bar's trainer, was walking her back to his van on Monday night after racing her at Shelbourne Park, Dublin, when he saw the vehicle being driven out of the car park. Inside was another greyhound called Annagh Miller. One police theory is that the dog-nappers were fooled by a "ringer".

Annagh Bar is valued at

£25,000. A ransom demand might have been expected had the thieves been successful, but they now have to decide what they are to do with Annagh Miller, a good but inferior animal, provisionally valued at £1,200.

She may be used as a "flapper", being raced under a false name at some of the less adequately policed dog-racing tracks in Britain. Or she might be turned loose, abandoned, or killed.

"Did they want the van, or did they steal it thinking Annagh Bar was in it? We just don't know", Mr Duffin said while appealing for the dog's return. "Just tie the poor dog to a lamp post so I can pick her up."

Emergency delays hundreds

By Edward Gorman

Hundreds of British holidaymakers were stranded throughout Europe yesterday after a charter airliner made an emergency landing on a flight from Gatwick to Palma.

The Cal Air DC10 — one of only three planes owned by the company — landed at Orly airport, Paris, in the early morning after the cabin filled with smoke or vapour.

Airline officials said the plane carried 166 passengers who completed the journey after a six-hour delay on a second Cal Air jet flown out from Gatwick.

The aircraft checked the plane and tried unsuccessfully to recreate the conditions which caused the fault before returning to Gatwick where British Airways engineers, who maintain Cal Air's air-

FLIGHTCHECK



Gatwick. Most British airports were free of big delays yesterday.

Heathrow and Manchester: No big delays.

Birmingham: A British Airways flight from Cologne and Amsterdam due to arrive at 4.40pm was delayed to 5.20pm by air traffic control restrictions.

A BA flight from Munich was an hour late at 4.55pm. Gatwick: A 2pm Emirates flight to Dubai was expected to depart at midnight after technical problems.

Laston: A 4.30pm Britannia Airways flight to Brindisi was due to go at 7.05pm. A 5.30pm Britannia flight to Tenerife was due to leave at 7.20pm. Monarch airlines to Ibiza at 5.55pm was an hour late. Stansted: An Air UK Leisure Milan flight left five hours late.

Woman cannot recall killing best friend

A wealthy housewife has no memory of battering to death her best friend, a judge at the Central Criminal Court, London, heard yesterday. She has been left "angushed and bemused" by the proof that she carried out the savage attack on her dear and trusted friend, Mrs Irene Solomon, aged 62, said Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, defending.

At first Mrs Bette Cohen, aged 56, refused to believe that she was responsible for the killing that has shocked the Jewish community of north-west London. She was so sure she was not the culprit she paid out of her own pocket for a DNA blood test, which is so accurate she knew it would prove conclusively what she had refused to accept.

Police had found two blood types in Mrs Solomon's £250,000 flat in Circus Road, St John's Wood, north-west



Mrs Bette Cohen: 'Angushed, bemused'



Mrs Irene Solomon: the 'trusted friend'

London. One belonged to the attacker, the other to Mrs Solomon. To Mrs Cohen's horror the test proved that the attacker's blood was hers.

She thought cuts to her hands had been caused by a fall. Instead she realized they must have occurred as Mrs

will then be brought back to court within six months after doctors have decided what exactly is wrong with her. The judge will then pass sentence.

Mrs Cohen of Addison House, Grove End Road, St John's Wood, pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The judge accepted her plea of not guilty to murder.

Mr Gray said: "This is an incredibly sad case. The defendant has been left utterly anguished and completely bewildered."

Mrs Cohen sat with her head bowed as the tragic events were outlined. She still has no memory of what happened, the court heard.

Mrs Solomon was found by a friend slumped on the floor of her flat dressed only in her underwear and housecoat.

"She had been brutally

killed. She suffered dreadful head injuries which had crushed and fractured her skull", said Mr Roy Amlot, prosecuting.

A scarf had been tied tightly round Mrs Solomon's neck, a kitchen knife had been rammed almost to the hilt in her back and there other knife wounds. She had 32 cuts to her head and her hands had been smashed. One had 42 injuries, the other 23.

Mrs Solomon was surrounded by expensive, blood-stained statuettes which had been used to beat her to death.

The court heard that she and Mrs Cohen, her friend for 20 years, liked to gamble. Their favourite game was roulette and they often frequented the Sportsman's Club in Tottenham Court Road, central London.

Mrs Solomon would often lose hundreds of pounds and

Mrs Cohen would bail her out. Mrs Solomon was last seen alive leaving the club on October 27, 1986, with £2,000 in winnings. The following day Mrs Cohen beat her to death and stole the money.

Since Mrs Solomon's death, preliminary tests have shown that Mrs Cohen may be suffering brain damage from a difficult forceps delivery at birth without even knowing. She also had asthma. The final tragedy happened in 1985. She was pushed to the floor and struck her head as raiders burst into her flat in 1985.

Dr Peter Fenwick, a consultant psychiatrist, told the judge: "Usually a patient has some memory of the event. She went to ridiculous lengths to try and persuade people that she had not done it. Getting the DNA test done was quite bizarre."

GCSE boards cleared of exam rigging

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

GCSE examination boards were yesterday cleared of "rigging" results to fool the public into believing that standards had risen.

Mr Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE, said that after conducting his own investigation he was satisfied that there was no truth in the charge made by an anonymous examiner last week.

The examiner claimed that results had been massaged to ensure that fixed percentages of pupils got the top grades, ensuring that the GCSE, taken for the first time this year, was seen to be a success.

Mr Hatfield said last night: "I am satisfied that this kind of thing has not taken place."

He attacked people making anonymous criticisms. They were putting the prospects of pupils who had won good grades at risk by undermining the examination, he said.

There was fresh concern yesterday about the running of GCSE, in spite of his assurances.

Thirty-eight pupils at King Alfred's School, Burnham on Sea, Somerset, were wrongly marked absent from an examination they had taken after a mix-up by board officials.

In Bedford, 132 girl pupils at the Dame Alice Harper School were still waiting their results for an English language paper which they took in June.

Both incidents involved the Midlands Examining Group. Its secretary, Mr Brian Swift, said his staff were clearing a backlog of problems "by the

hour". He blamed the problems on difficulties such as examination papers getting lost in the post and the non-arrival of mark sheets from examiners.

He added: "You must remember that these sorts of problems are not new - they have always gone on."

Miss Suzanne Morse, headmistress of Dame Alice School, accused the examination boards and the Government of complacency.

Her school had still had no explanation for the delay in awarding grades to its pupils.

Undergraduates starting their university or polytechnic courses next month face one of the most stressful periods in their lives, according to Ms Roslyn Taylor, a Glasgow-based consultant psychologist.

She says in *Study for Survival*, to be published next month, that undergraduates will change "social circumstances, working conditions, financial situation and probably their beliefs and values" when they start college.

The number of mature students in higher education has risen sharply, according to a bulletin published by the Department of Education and Science yesterday. The number of students classified as "mature" (over 21 for undergraduates and 25 for postgraduates) has risen by 42 per cent to 186,400 since 1979.

Study for Survival and Success (Paul Chapman: £5.95.)

Mature Students in Higher Education - 1975 to 1986 (DES, Elizabeth House, London SE1 7PH).

The giant dead letter box



Bins full of letters and parcels lay abandoned in the deserted Royal Mail sorting office at Mount Pleasant, central London, yesterday, as members of the Union of Communication Workers staged their first national strike for 17 years.

Sex victim sought out and knifed stepfather

A young woman said to have been sexually abused as a child traced her former stepfather to North Wales and stabbed him, a court was told yesterday.

She admitted unlawful wounding but was freed on probation by Mold Crown Court, Cwtyd.

After the stabbing, the stepfather, who lives in the Colwyn Bay area of north Wales, was interviewed by police, the court was told. He is to be prosecuted for indecency.

Mr David Hale, counsel for the prosecution, said the stepfather was waiting in a car park near Colwyn Bay to pick up his daughter when he was approached by a young woman he did not recognize.

She identified herself, called him a child molester and knifed him in the arm.

Judge Daniel said it was a most unusual case that could be dealt with without a prison term.

The woman, aged 20 and from Liverpool, has received psychiatric treatment since the alleged sexual abuse.

A man aged 35 was jailed for four years yesterday for sexually abusing his stepdaughter, now aged 11. The girl reported his behaviour to police on March 15 this year, after a watching a television programme on child sexual abuse hosted by Esther Rantzen. St Albans Crown Court in Hertfordshire was told.

The girl was abused from the age of nine, after the man moved in with her mother, later marrying her. He pleaded guilty to three charges of indecent assault and one of attempting intercourse, saying he drank heavily at the time

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1988

This Saturday's Times will be different: in four sections, with full colour in each. Following the main news section, Money includes personal finance; Review has an extract from Desmond Morris's new book; and Sport looks at the NatWest final



New flat and a bonus

Mrs Louise Jones will have no difficulty in spending the £2,000 she has won in The Times Portfolio competition. She said: "I have just bought a new flat and, with the mortgage rate the way it is, that money will soon be gobbled up. I am a first-time buyer and this win could not come at a better time."

Ms Jones, aged 23, a copyright manager, moved into her new home at Northolt, west London, two

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

months ago. "It is still in a bit of a mess so I'll be paying for some redecoration." She was one of two winners sharing the £4,000 Prize. The other was Mr Pierre Ansonier of High Street, Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire.

Blade 'was stuck into PC's head'

A stiletto-bladed screwdriver driven into a police officer's head in a public house brawl had to be removed under a general anaesthetic, a court was told yesterday.

Police Constable Jonathan Gildersleeves, aged 22, had gone to the aid of a colleague during a fight at The College Arms in Eton, Berkshire, one night in June last year, Reading Crown Court was told.

The blade was driven an inch into the side of his head, Mr Anthony King, for the prosecution, said.

Paul Kenny, aged 22, a tyre fitter, of Dedworth Drive, Windsor, denies a charge of wounding PC Gildersleeves with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm. He pleads not guilty with two other youths to charges of conspiring to assault soldiers to cause actual bodily harm, and violent disorder.

Mr King said that a gang of youths had gone into Windsor on a "squaddie-bashing mis-

sion" after one of them had been beaten up by soldiers a fortnight earlier.

They found no soldiers and descended on the College Arms bent on causing trouble. One customer was thrown across a table and attacked by 10 youths.

PC Gildersleeves and a special constable grabbed one of the troublemakers and managed to get him outside, Mr King said.

A police sergeant who had also gone into the public house fell to the ground where he was punched and kicked. PC Gildersleeves returned and tried to help the sergeant, but was surrounded by the mob.

Mr King said: "As PC Gildersleeves started to take another prisoner out of the door, Kenny followed, put his left arm around the officer's neck from behind and then, in a punching or stabbing motion, delivered a blow to the side of his head."

The trial continues today.

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P1 T10 XT

Unhealthy food in hospitals

Hospitals can be far from healthy when it comes to the food they provide, according to a Consumers' Association survey published yesterday.

In its magazine, *Which?*, the association says people should not assume that all hospitals serve healthy or hygienically prepared food.

Almost half the menus of National Health Service hospitals surveyed did not provide a healthy choice of meals, and where they used the cook-chill system in which food is prepared in bulk and frozen for distribution, more than a quarter used it in a way likely to spoil the food and increase the risk of food poisoning.

"Many hospitals are cutting corners to save money", it said.

The survey was undertaken in the wake of an investigation by environmental health officers who found that 42 per cent of the hospital kitchens they inspected did not meet hygiene regulations.

The association has stepped up its demands for sales of Suzuki SJ vehicles to be suspended. It has compiled a 30-case dossier of "deaths and serious injuries" allegedly involving Suzuki SJs in roll-over accidents, which it has sent to the Department of Transport.

The department has said there is little evidence drivers are any more at risk in an SJ than other vehicles.

However, Mr David Watts, editor of *Which?*, said: "This dossier shows there is clear evidence that these vehicles are unstable. Since it was compiled we have had reports of even more Suzuki roll-over accidents. Urgent action is needed now before more people are killed or injured."

Fancy pigeon

A British pigeon stud has paid a world record £77,000 for Smaragd No 2, a Dutch-bred champion racing pigeon. Louella Pigeon World, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, will use the bird for breeding.

Britain seeks European help to fight thuggery

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Britain is to take the lead in a new European initiative to control hooliganism, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr John Patten, the Minister of State at the Home Office, has asked his officials to investigate what steps can be taken to deter violent and drunken Britons from causing trouble abroad.

Working through the Council of Europe, the officials will consult their opposite numbers in European countries and report back by Christmas. Mr Patten is also trying to encourage other countries to prosecute troublemakers rather than send them home.

"I told the European justice

ministers in June that while I could understand their reaction of simply wanting to put troublemakers on the first plane or boat home, it would be much better for all of us if yobs and hooligans were tried properly", he said.

"I pledged we would have them back in this country to serve their jail sentences."

The European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which has been ratified by 14 countries, provides for the repatriation of offenders facing prison sentences of six months or more.

However, many countries are reluctant to prosecute because they do not want their

courts and prisons cluttered up with foreigners.

Mr Patten has asked his officials to remind European governments that Britain is prepared to go beyond the terms of the convention to deal with hooliganism. It will enter into ad hoc arrangements with countries such as West Germany and Belgium that have not yet ratified the convention, and will open its prisons to Britons sentenced to less than six months.

Britain will also suggest that all member states exchange information on the prosecution, trying and punishment of hooligans.

"It is in all our interests to

seek a more uniform approach, both to prosecution and to the level of the sentence imposed", Mr Patten said.

"We cannot afford to let the initiative remain with the hooligan."

After ugly street clashes involving hundreds of English football supporters at the European Championships in May, ministers have become increasingly alarmed at the damage being done to Britain's standing abroad.

However, last week's Foreign Office figures showing a fourfold increase in the number of British holidaymakers arrested in Greece this summer have emphasized that the

problem is not confined to travelling football supporters. Neither is hooliganism a purely British disease.

The West Germans are also worried about the behaviour of their young people abroad.

There appears to be a growing recognition within Europe that, with the easing of travel restrictions in 1992, concerted action is needed.

The possibility of withdrawing passports from convicted football hooligans is being examined by an interdepartmental group of ministers chaired by Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport.

The team is due to report in the autumn.

'Despicable' sex video blackmailer is jailed



Seliz Hassan: 'did not know affair was filmed'

A mini cab driver who filmed his wife in bed with her employer and tried to blackmail him for £1 million was jailed for six years yesterday.

Hessen, Hassan, aged 42, used the film to extort cash from the company director, aged 45, the Central Criminal Court was told.

Although he asked for £1 million, Hassan settled for a pay-off of £80,000.

His wife, Seliz Hassan, aged 31, who claimed that she did not realize her affair was being filmed, was also convicted of blackmail. Mr James Crespi QC, the re-

corder, adjourned sentence on her and remanded her in custody for probation reports to be prepared.

The judge told Hassan: "I regard your conduct as despicable. You took advantage of the weakness of your wife in order to extort large sums of money and attempted to extort a very much larger sum."

Hassan hid his camera in a box on top of a wardrobe and left it running while his wife made love with the clothing manufacturer. The man, who was terrified of what his wife would do if she saw the film, paid up. The court was told

that the money was to be used to buy a new house for the couple, who lived on the Lisson Green council estate, in Paddington, west London.

The businessman handed over two instalments, but after the third demand went to the police. None of the money has been recovered.

Police believe that Hassan, a drug addict, spent most of it on heroin and holidays in Egypt.

The court was told that Seliz Hassan, a mother of three, had fallen in love with her employer who had used his wealth to dazzle her with dinners at top restaurants and

expensive presents. He also loaned her large sums of money with which she bought a car and took foreign holidays.

After her husband blackmailed the businessman she had extracted a further £3,500 from him which she said she needed because her husband had taken her children to Egypt.

Hessen Hassan was found guilty of blackmail and attempted blackmail between October 1, 1986 and November 30, 1987. His wife was convicted of blackmail between October 28, 1986 and November 30, 1987.

Children get Disney World holidays - for £29

By Robin Young

Thomson Holidays yesterday launched a pre-emptive broadside in the price war for next year's holidays, bringing out its summer 1989 brochures a month earlier than usual and window-dressing them with loss leader bargains such as a week's holiday for a child under 16 at Florida's Disney World next year for £29.

Mum and Dad, if they are willing to go in April and can move fast enough when the holidays go on sale tomorrow, would have to pay £249 each.

Other bargains on offer, for those who are willing to book next year's holiday while still glorying in their

tans from this year's, include a self-catering holiday for a family of four in Majorca, Ibiza or the Costa Dorada for £149, more than 100,000 free holidays for children, and flights to Palma, Majorca, for £42.

Thomson has also flattened its differentials on high-season holidays, making the prices of many lower than they were this year. It is also initiating flights from Exeter, bringing the number of airports it uses in the United Kingdom to 15.

Last year Thomson, which has increased its share of the package holiday market from 18 per cent in 1986 to 38 per cent now, launched its

brochures late and lost some early booking business to its main competitors I.L.G. owners of Intasun. I.L.G. which now accounts for about one-fifth of the market, also undercut Thomson's prices, forcing the market leader to reissue its brochures with lower prices.

Thomson's directors pledged yesterday that, as last year, they would reinvoice families who book early, if the price on their holiday is reduced later.

Observers are, in any case, doubtful that I.L.G., which recently took Sol Holidays under its wing in response to Thomson's takeover of the loss-

making Horizon group, will force further price cuts when it launches its brochures within the next two weeks.

Mr David Hart, commercial director of Intasun, said yesterday: "We will have quite a few surprises up our sleeve, but whether they will oblige Thomson to relaunch must wait to be seen."

In 1987 Thomson accounts showed that the company made only 70p per passenger on its holiday operations, but Miss Rosemary Astles, the marketing director, said yesterday: "If the brochure prices can be maintained we would make quite reasonable profits in 1989."

Civil airlines to ask military for more airspace in Europe

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Civil airlines are to press Nato's military leaders to allow greater use of restricted airspace over Europe in an attempt to ease congestion in the air.

So far, however, they have received little support from the military, especially in West Germany, which claims it must have sole use of vast areas of sky to practise manoeuvres and prepare for the defence of the West.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, yesterday urged the air forces within Europe to be more co-operative.

"I really find it quite wrong that governments are allowing themselves to be led by the military and the ministries of defence in preventing the greater use of airspace", he said.

"The military say that they fear that if there was an attack on a Saturday afternoon the sky might be full of civilian aircraft who would get in the way. But I am sure it would be possible to clear the areas very quickly. We need far greater co-operation to enable civilian flights to use these areas, particularly when the military

are not actually involved in exercises."

Civil aircraft now have to fly 12 per cent further than necessary to avoid military airspace, he said. This added to costs and prevented the most efficient use of aircraft.

"In the United States the diversions only account for a further 3 per cent", Sir Colin said. "Governments cannot step aside from the issue of airways and airspace use and if there was a more liberal attitude shown to the use of military areas this could be directly related to fares to the benefit of passengers."

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents all the world's major airlines, is taking the battle to Nato at a special meeting later this month aimed at leading to greater co-operation between military and civil use of the air.

At the same time the International Civil Aviation Organization is planning to create a network of new routes throughout Europe to enable airlines to by-pass congested areas at peak times.

Again, however, this will

need considerable co-operation from the military before it can be put into effect, and so far there is little indication that this will be forthcoming.

An IATA spokesman in Geneva said: "Some air forces have been helpful, but only governments can really force them to co-operate further. The military themselves are not too eager to give up their air space and it is difficult to get them to agree to ease up."

The RAF recently agreed to free for civil use about 6,000 square miles of air space over Britain, previously used exclusively for military training.

Delegates to the International Federation of Airworthiness will today meet in Irvine, Strathclyde, to discuss ways in which new worldwide standards of airworthiness can be imposed.

At present standards are set by individual countries, but experts believe the imposition of international standards covering all types of commercial aircraft is well overdue.

The conference is being attended by representatives from 14 countries as well as delegates from airlines and aircraft manufacturers.

Amnesty for firearms gets underway



Deputy Commissioner John Dellow with the type of weapons taken in under the amnesty (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Thousands of weapons in private hands are expected to be surrendered during the first nationwide firearms amnesty for 20 years which begins today.

The idea is to reduce the number of guns in circulation which could fall into the wrong hands.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said: "If a violent criminal steals your gun tomorrow, he could well use it the next week against an innocent citizen, perhaps in your own home town."

"That is why I am asking people with unlicensed or unwanted guns to hand them into a police station, without fear of prosecution, during this month's amnesty."

Many of the guns expected to be handed in will date back to wars in which their owners or family members served. The amnesty will enable the public to hand in weapons before they become subject to the increased penalties under the Criminal Justice Act.

One of the crucial areas for the amnesty's appeal is London which has two-thirds of the country's armed robberies. In 10 years the use of guns in raids has risen by 44 per cent from 900 per year in 1977 to 1,693 in 1987.

Mr John Dellow, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said: "If we can save one death, one injury or stop a single crime it will be worthwhile, but we are hoping for much more."

Lobbyists campaign for right to pay MPs

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Many professional lobbyists want the right to make payments to politicians for advancing their causes at Westminster.

Some MPs and peers already take on briefs for certain bodies, but the system is unregulated and the lobbyists want to be put on an official parliamentary register. They say it would make it easier to get into Parliament, speeding access to official papers.

MPs have previously rejected the idea, but the big increase in the practice in recent years is putting pressure on an all-party select committee investigating parliamentary lobbying to reverse the decision. The inquiry was launched because of concern at the lack of rules governing lobbyists who are able to influence government decisions and legislation.

In evidence to the committee, two professional bodies representing the public relations industry argued that their codes of practice and disciplinary machinery could deal with any abuses, such as bribery and corruption.

However, in a poll of its members, the Public Relations Consultants' Association found 45 per cent saw nothing wrong with registered lobbyists paying politicians.

Trauma conference

Zeebrugge's shattered lives

By Thomson Prestice, Science Correspondent

The lives of most crew members who survived the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in which 193 people died have been shattered by psychological after-effects, a conference was told yesterday.

When the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized outside the Belgian port in March 1987, 38 of the crew were among the victims.

Forty-two crew survived, only to suffer months of mental agony. Mrs Janet Johnson, a Dover social worker who led an intensive counselling service, told the first European Conference on Traumatic Stress, organized in Lincoln by the British Psychological Society.

Mrs Johnson said the survivors had to tread over bodies to reach safety, hearing the cries of trapped friends on board. They were haunted by guilt at not rescuing more passengers and shipmates.

The crewmen's marriages suffered and in some cases disintegrated. Many of the men became impotent and underwent personality changes,

A national disaster agency should be set up to co-ordinate the response to emergencies such as the King's Cross fire, the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* said yesterday. "The UK needs an agency to co-ordinate rescue plans and help us learn the lesson of past tragedies", it said, adding that local councils which might have to co-ordinate rescue operations did not get planning finance.

es, she said. Mild-mannered individuals became violent and aggressive types became withdrawn.

"They lost their relationships with their wives, parents and children. They lost belief in themselves, they lost their ship and the jobs that went with it. They lost everything."

Only two of the 42 — both officers — are still working at sea. Half the others are unemployed. One was turned down for a job as a dustman and many feel that P&O, the ferry owners, do not care about them. Counselling was a

difficult and delicate process, she said.

"Violence has never been far away when working with these men. I did a deal with them in which I said I would not push them further than they could go emotionally, provided they didn't hit me."

The men continued to suffer nightmares, flashbacks and panic attacks. One can still feel wet socks on his feet 17 months after the event. "One or two still wish they had died on the ship that night", Mrs Johnson said.

Some of the children aboard also suffered symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Mrs Ruth Williams, a psychiatry lecturer who studied 13 of the 22 child survivors, said: "One eight-year-old boy still has nightmares. He dreams the world is going over on its side and all the people are going up in the air."

More than half the children suffered from PTSD, she said. They could not concentrate at school and had trouble sleeping.

Police training in firearms criticized

Most British policemen trained in the use of firearms are convinced they will never have to use them and are often unprepared when they do, the principal Home Office psychologist said yesterday.

Mrs Mary Manolias told the conference that British policemen had little opportunity for every day familiarity with guns and their firearms training was inadequate in several respects.

She said of 25 policemen interviewed after shooting incidents: "They were totally unprepared for action. Most had never even shot a rabbit. They found their first contact with a live target quite devastating."

In one case, an officer who shot an armed assailant became highly distraught and desperately tried to resuscitate the victim, even when it was clear he was dead.

"During training, the prospect of killing someone had never been properly confronted", she said.

Further problems arose because of the sharp sound of gun shots. Most officers wore

earmuffs in training, she said, and were "totally surprised" to hear the sound of a weapon being fired.

Many of the officers she spoke to disliked firearms from the start.

"They often took up training because it was a qualification for a job, or because they wanted to be self-reliant in a shooting incident."

Sixty per cent of officers experienced perceptual distortions during shooting incidents.

One officer faced with a sawn-off shotgun said it was like looking at the large end of a pair of binoculars. Another leapt a 15ft fence but remembered it as only waist-high.

Other reactions included paralysis of the gun arm and a migraine that lasted for two years.

Until recently, Mrs Manolias said, traumatic stress in police officers after shooting incidents received no official acknowledgement.

"Things are slowly beginning to change. It is in the nature of these things that change comes slowly."

Scars still raw after IRA blast

A report on the Enniskillen blast says that 50 per cent of survivors still suffer from traumatic stress and all were psychologically damaged.

The report, by Dr Peter Curran, a Northern Ireland psychologist, and Dr Paul Bell, of Mater Hospital, Belfast, will be presented at the Lincoln conference today. It is based on a study of 26 survivors of the Remembrance Day explosion.

"We found that 50 per cent displayed clear symptoms of traumatic stress", Dr Bell said yesterday. "In the past, after assassinations and so on, we would expect only a quarter of survivors to display such symptoms."

The symptoms included reliving the bombing in dreams and recollections, irritability, emotional estrangement and phobias. These without such symptoms were still psychologically "damaged".

However, those worst injured physically appeared to be less traumatized psychologically, possibly because of the protective effects of a long stay in hospital.

British Association report

Acute shortage of vital skills

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain faces an acute shortage of scientific and engineering skills at all levels in research, industry and education, Sir Walter Bodmer, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, said yesterday.

Introducing the association's yearly report ahead of its annual meeting at Oxford next week, he said the pace of scientific advance was accelerating and the period between basic discoveries and their discovery and application was shortening.

Sir Walter, who is director of research for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said: "Our future economic prosperity has become dependent

entirely on progress in science and technology". But the level of funding for science by government and industry was inadequate.

Consequently, without adequate resources, science and technology often lost against commercial sectors in the competition for highly talented individuals.

At the school level, there was a disaffection built over years to be overcome. Sir Walter was encouraged by the experience of the GCSE examinations, but he believed there was an even more important job of broadening secondary education up to university level.

Next week, in addition to

more than 300 speakers who will review progress in Britain of most sectors of science, medicine and technology, the association has a meeting with eminent scientists from elsewhere in Europe, the Soviet Union, the US, Africa, and the Commonwealth.

The Soviet contributor is Academician Rem Viktorovich Petrov, president of the Society of Immunologists of the USSR. He will be accompanied by Academician Nikolai Pavlovich Bochkov, founder and director of the Institute of Medical Genetics, and Dr Aleksandr Nikolaevich Starodub, deputy chairman of Znanie, the All Union Knowledge Societies.

Disruption to your Postal Service

The Royal Mail regrets the major disruption to postal services and the inconvenience to our customers because of industrial action by the Union of Communication Workers.

We are doing everything we can to restore a full postal service as soon as possible.

This unnecessary disruption is for the most astonishing of reasons — because we are paying MORE money to some of our new staff in London and the South East where we have a real problem attracting and holding on to new recruits. We need experienced people to protect the quality of service our customers expect and deserve.

The UCW opposes these payments and has refused our repeated appeals to return to the negotiating table — instead it called a 24-hour national strike.

We hope services will be back to normal shortly, but in the meantime if you need more up to date information on postal services in your area, please contact the Customer Care Unit shown in your local telephone directory under "Post Office."



Royal Mail

Pinochet choice provokes street battles in Chile



Santiago demonstrators banging pots to protest at the junta choice of General Pinochet as sole presidential candidate.

From Lake Sagaris
Santiago

Nationwide demonstrations in which three people — including two teenage boys — were shot and killed, 13 people were injured, six of them seriously, and more than 1,100 arrested broke out in Chile after the announcement that the four-man military junta had nominated President Pinochet as sole candidate in the presidential plebiscite on October 5.

Supporters and opponents of General Augusto Pinochet, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, yesterday started their campaigns. The 16 opposition parties agreed on a coalition pact in the event of a majority voting "No" to President Pinochet.

A "Yes" vote will give him another eight-year term of office, starting on March 11. He has been in power since the coup which overthrew President Allende in September, 1973. Early

yesterday soldiers in combat gear were patrolling some suburbs, but a police spokesman described the situation as calm.

However, on Tuesday thousands in the capital banged empty pots and pans to protest against General Pinochet's selection. Demonstrators erected barricades with burning tyres and blocked traffic in Santiago.

Elsewhere in the country, there were day-long street disturbances in which demonstrators clashed with riot police. Buses were set on fire and police vehicles damaged.

The opposition has stated constantly in the past year that the chances of a fair plebiscite are slight. The pro-Pinochet campaign has had unlimited access to television and other media for the past year, while critics have only recently begun to appear on news programmes.

Even if a majority of Chileans vote against General Pinochet, he will

remain in power for another year, when there would be multi-candidate elections.

Voter registration closed at midnight on Tuesday, with a record 7.3 million (of a possible 8.2 million) registered. Señor Juan Ignacio García, director of the electoral service, reported that 45 per cent of those registered had never voted before, and he announced a special voters' education programme.

How Chileans will vote is still being hotly debated. The pro-government daily, *El Mercurio*, published a poll reporting that 37 per cent would support General Pinochet, while 33 per cent would vote "No".

However, polls by research institutions associated with opposition groups have shown 50 to 60 per cent plan to vote "No", and that General Pinochet's support has remained fairly constant at 20 to 30 per cent. All polls show that about one-third

of voters are undecided, although one study indicated that more than half those who claim to be undecided do not want to reveal how they will vote. Many Chileans lie to pollsters, for fear that anti-government sentiments could lose them their jobs.

The suppression of anti-government demonstrations that lasted until early yesterday, the confirmation that two of Chile's most important union leaders will be sent into internal exile, and the activities of pro-Pinochet youths armed with clubs, who attacked anti-government demonstrators, seem to indicate that the opposition will continue to have limited opportunities.

Nevertheless, young people, housewives, workers, students and others marched spontaneously through rich and poor areas on Tuesday, for the first time since national protests expressed widespread discontent with military rule between 1983 and 1986.

Burmese leaders warn of harsh response

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

The hard-pressed Government of Burma said yesterday that it would move against demonstrators taking part in the pro-democracy protest campaign unless they leave government offices they have occupied.

The announcement, the first hint of a clampdown on the mass revolt against single-party socialist rule, was broadcast on Rangoon radio, the last media outlet still in the Government hands.

The warning, which the radio said had come from the office of the Prime Minister, Thura U Tun Tin, was issued as student leaders called for rallies and a general strike.

Announcements made from loud-speaker vans urged people to join in work stoppages and rallies today when there will also be an important meeting of the League for Democracy and Peace which could soon take over control from the Government led by President Maung Maung.

The league's leader, U Nu, the last elected Prime Minister, said yesterday that more than two-thirds of Burma was now under the control of the people. Monks, students and other civilians were now running 40 cities and towns in place of officials who had deserted their posts.

The uprising against the regime has reached every government department and local council offices throughout Burma where Associations for Democracy have been formed. There are posters about "people's power for democracy" in shops and offices.

More places of business were open yesterday, but the acute petrol shortage and lack of public transport are crippling normal activities.

Diplomats in Rangoon said that the Army, which withdrew from the centre of Rangoon a week ago, had become more visible, increasing rumours that military intervention was imminent.

Influential retired military officers disclosed yesterday that they had sent a letter signed by more than 30 of them to the President urging him to make way for an interim government which could speedily organize free elections.

They told the President that Burma's one-party system, in operation for 26 years, had failed.

U Nu said yesterday that the league would meet today and then issue a statement explaining its aims. He would also announce whether he would lead a caretaker government until elections.

Aged 81, he is not physically strong and may choose to remain the respected patron of the party.

Ershad plea for food aid after floods cause chaos

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

President Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday launched an international appeal for emergency food aid as more than 25 million people were left without shelter in the country's worst floods in living memory.

More than a million people in the capital, Dhaka, had lost their homes by last night as the Buriganga and Shitalakha rivers burst their banks. The state-run radio said about 100,000 people were now housed in 120 temporary shelters in the city, and others had moved in with friends and relatives.

General Ershad made the appeal for food and other aid at a hurriedly called press conference in his office after his return from a tour of some of the worst hit districts of Sirajganj and Faridpur with a group of Western diplomats.

"We are facing a catastrophe of an unprecedented dimension," said the 58-year-old President, who looked depressed and tired.

"This flood is worse than last year's in destruction," he told *The Times* afterwards.

General Ershad said he needed two million tons of food grain to avert hunger in the country of 103 million people, nearly 80 per cent of whom are living below the poverty line.

Relief officials said that army units were rescuing people from the roofs of huts and from trees in 35 out of 64 administrative districts which have been affected by the floods in the past 13 days following heavy rains.

About 350 people have died in the floods so far, with 12 more children drowned in

Pabna district in northern Bangladesh yesterday while they were being taken to a relief camp.

General Ershad also asked for helicopters and their crews from friendly Western and Arab nations to take food to thousands of isolated villages.

"The only way to get food quickly to the distressed families is by air, because railway and road links have been disrupted," the President said.

General Ershad said he expected Britain, West Germany and other EEC nations, as well as the United States and Australia, to come forward with food aid because these countries were traditional donors.

The appeal came after the Agriculture Ministry voiced fears that about six million tons of rice in the autumn harvest had been ruined.

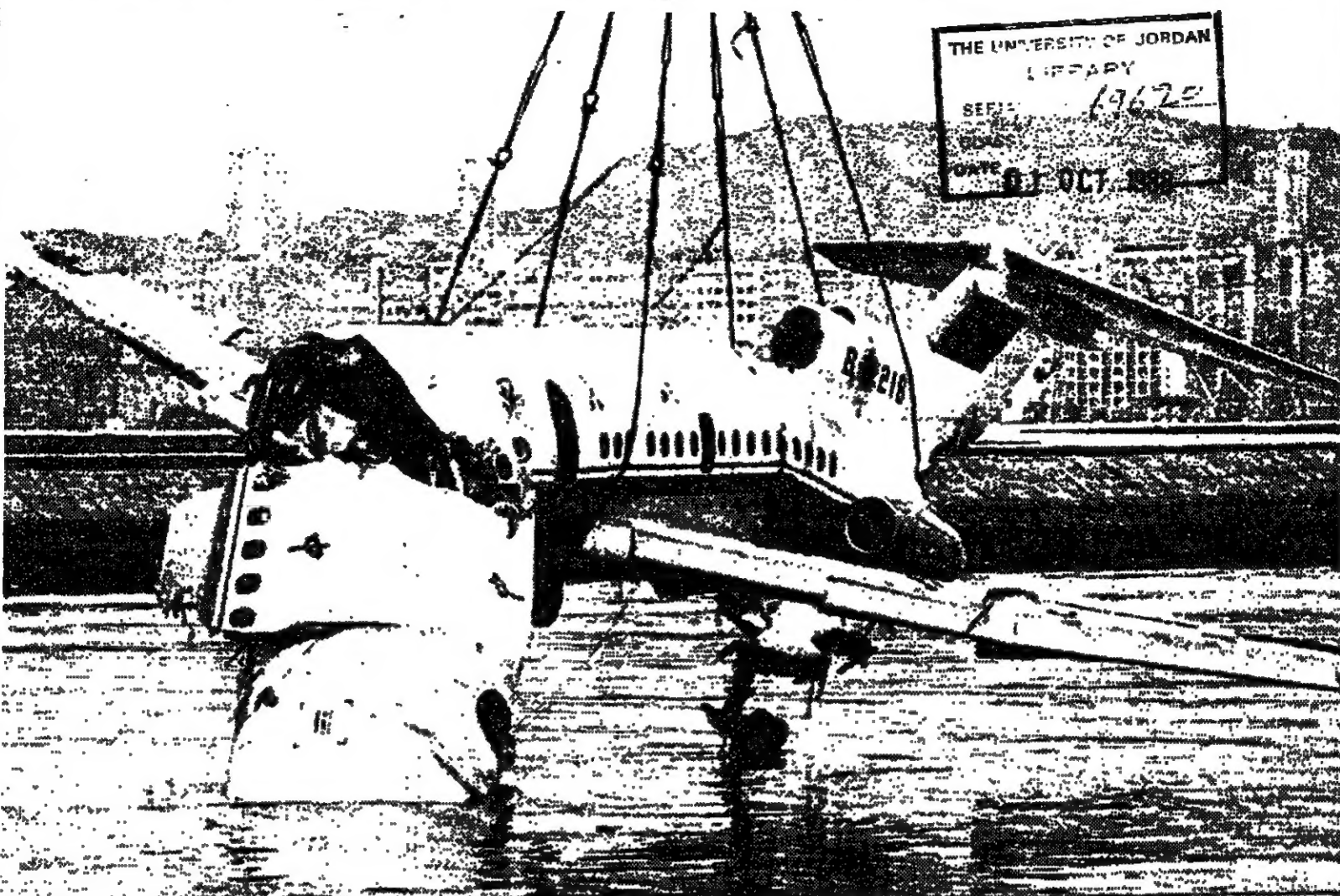
"There is very little scope for salvaging anything from the devastated fields because the flooding has been very intensive this time," he said.

At Kamrangirchar, on the outskirts of Dhaka, floods reached roof level. Hundreds of families have taken refuge on rooftops but are spending sleepless nights because of the threat from poisonous snakes which crawl on to the roofs.

The state food warehouses have 1.2 million tons of food grain, but officials are worried that the stocks may not be sufficient to feed millions of subsistence farmers who have lost their stored grain from the earlier harvest.

General Ershad said the economic loss to the country would be more than in the 1987 floods and would exceed \$1 billion (£395 million).

Seven die as Chinese jet careers into the sea



The hulk of the British-made Trident being lifted from the sea after careering off the runway while landing at Hong Kong.

From Chris Pomeroy
Hong Kong

A Chinese airliner carrying 89 people skidded off the runway and broke in two while landing in a storm at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport yesterday, killing seven people and injuring 14 others. Six of the 11-man crew, including the pilot, were among the dead, trapped in the submerged cockpit. One passenger died later from head injuries. Among the others hurt were two Americans and a Frenchman.

Rescue ships backed by five helicopters went to the aid of stranded survivors, most of whom had scrambled to a wing of the aircraft, one of the Chinese national airline's ageing fleet of Tridents. Two more were rescued from inside the fuselage,

according to witnesses. Rescuers first on the scene described the chaos inside, with people panicking to get out and one of the engines on fire. The bodies of the six crew were later recovered by divers.

Officials of the Chinese Government declined to speculate concerning the cause of the accident, which halted all air traffic for about 6½ hours at what is a key transport centre for South-East Asia.

However, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the national carrier, said that stormy weather had restricted visibility. This view was echoed by China's Xinhua news agency in its brief report of the plane crash.

The airliner was completing a 30-minute flight from Canton, the capital

of China's Guangdong province, about 90 miles north-west of Hong Kong. Passengers later claimed they felt a big jolt after a hard landing in torrential rain. One described the plane as bouncing before settling back on the runway. "There were tremendous vibrations. You could feel the plane was not travelling in a straight line any more."

The plane crossed an adjacent taxiway before careering off the edge of the runway embankment, which stretches out into Hong Kong harbour, and breaking up in shallow water.

"The waters were rising around our waist and the first-class section was in the water," said a passenger, one of a number who made their own way to safety through two rear exit doors and waded to the edge of the runway.

Another traveller claimed some of the seat belts on the aircraft were broken. "When the plane landed so hard, people went flying," she said.

The worst accident at Kai Tak occurred in 1967, when a Thai International flight crashed into the harbour, killing 24 of the 73 people who were on board. China's worst airline disaster occurred six years ago when another Trident plunged into a mountain near Guilin, southern China, killing all 112 on board.

Hong Kong's airport has a had reputation as the land approach involves descending to a few hundred feet over a densely populated district. Yesterday's accident came after an approach over sea and an investigation was immediately launched into possible causes.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Ecuador acts to tackle £6bn debt

Quito (Reuters) — The new Social Democrat Government of Ecuador has announced sweeping measures to end soaring inflation and fix a foreign debt of \$11 billion (£6.5 billion) it says the country cannot pay.

The measures include devaluation; increases in the minimum wage; petrol, electricity and domestic gas price rises; selective restrictions on imports; and higher taxes. Officials said the measures were intended to save \$450 million (£265 million) in foreign exchange, achieve 7 per cent growth in gross domestic product and halve annual inflation from 60 per cent in a year.

President Rodrigo Boriá, who took office on August 10, and the left-wing controlled National Congress will have to approve the new measures. Vehicle imports are banned and the central bank will stop loans to the Government until December.

Ecuador's economy has been hurt by low oil prices and an earthquake last year that cut oil exports for five months. Ecuador relies on oil for two-thirds of its export income.

More arms for Iran

Buenos Aires — The Iranian freighter Iran Sadr yesterday continued loading personnel carriers, mortars and other munitions at the naval base of Puerto Belgrano (Michael Llanos writes). The armaments were being supplied as part of a \$71 million contract with Argentine suppliers signed several years ago, military sources said.

GENEVA — The UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar — "frustrated at the slow pace of the (peace) talks" — had separate meetings last night with the Iraqi Foreign Minister and his Iranian counterpart.

Call to Solzhenitsyn

Moscow — An unofficial organizing committee for the building of a monument to Stalin's victims has invited Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the exiled chronicler of gulag life, to join its board (Our Correspondent writes).

The group's spokesman, Mr Aleksandr Vaisberg, said the initiative was prompted by a public opinion survey carried out by his own weekly newspaper, the *Literaturnaya Gazeta*. In the survey, and in telephone polls, "a large number of people" voiced for Mr Solzhenitsyn, who was declared an "enemy of the people" in 1974.

Danes tighten belts

Copenhagen — Hard-pressed, overtaxed Danes are to exercise more wage restraint and will pay for library and other welfare state services, including medicine, while some privatisation is to be carried out, according to the budget for 1989, unveiled yesterday by Mr Palle Simonsen, the Finance Minister (Christopher Follet writes).

The budget, the first presented by the new Conservative coalition Government, sets a state expenditure ceiling of 219.6 billion kroner (£18 billion) in 1989, in effect a spending freeze for the fifth successive year.

Soviet radar station putting Salt deal at risk, says US

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The United States said yesterday that there could be no agreement on a strategic arms limitation treaty until the Soviet Union dismantled its phased-array radar station near Krasnoyarsk, in Siberia, which is regarded as violating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

"The US will have to consider declaring this continuing violation a material breach of the treaty," a statement issued at the end of the week-long third review conference of the pact said.

The upshot of discussions during the conference, it added, "suggests that the Soviet Union may be preparing a prohibited anti-ballistic missile territorial defence."

This was a "particularly serious concern" which would have profound implications for the vital East-West balance, the US said.

"For the USSR to acquire such a capability in violation of the treaty 'could erode our (nuclear) deterrent and leave doubts about its capability'."

Throughout the conference, the US delegates, headed by General William F. Burns, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, had emphasized that Russian violations threatened the viability of the treaty.

However, "the Soviet Union gave no indication it was prepared to correct the violations without linking their agreement to do so to unacceptable demands."

The Soviet Union has condemned work in progress at radar installations at Fylingdales Moor in Yorkshire and at Thule in Greenland, and has linked its demands for a broad interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty to a Start agreement.

It has said the "narrow" interpretation of the treaty was a concept subsequently introduced by the US for the

purposes of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, which Moscow opposes totally.

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty requires the parties "not to deploy in the future radars for early warning of strategic missile attack except at locations along the periphery of its national territory and oriented outward."

The Krasnoyarsk array faces north-east towards a coastline which is between 1,200 and 2,500 miles away.

Phased-array radar stations strategically located can serve as a key element of defence against intercontinental nuclear missiles, theoretically allowing one country to attack without risking a devastating retaliation.

A Soviet reply to the US statement will be given here today by Mr Viktor Karpov, director of the Disarmament Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Dukakis answers his critics with barrage against Bush

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Governor Michael Dukakis, facing mounting criticism from Democratic strategists for his lethargic campaigning during the past month, has abruptly changed tactics with a barrage of attacks on Vice-President George Bush's judgement and competence.

Mr Bush, too, was attempting to deflect criticism from his own ranks over his confusing position on the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars), which is fiercely supported by the Republican right wing. In an interview published yesterday he restated his commitment to Star Wars. And he thrilled ultra-conservatives with the fervour of his across-the-board attack on liberalism.

Mr Dukakis began a four-day Pacific Coast campaign swing yesterday designed to answer criticism that he has spent too much time in his home state of Massachusetts.

By contrast, Mr Bush has

been campaigning almost non-stop across the country, portraying his rival as a domestic liberal and foreign policy novice. Mr Bush's strategy is now clear.

By attacking liberalism with such ferocity he hopes to recapture the right-wing "Reagan Democrats" who defected to the Republicans in



large numbers in 1980 and 1984. By promising continued economic growth and a commitment to strong defence, he is appealing to the political mainstream.

Mr Dukakis's change of strategy came suddenly at the end of a two-day, 20-stop tour of Massachusetts. The aim is to regain the agenda-setting initiative, which has been

seized by Mr Bush in the momentum of the Republican national convention last month. The controversies over Senator Dan Quayle, Mr Bush's running mate, surprisingly did not drain the Republican campaign of its energy.

In his attack Mr Dukakis described Mr Bush as a man "who supported the sale of arms to a terrorist nation; was part of an Administration that was doing business with gun-running Panamanian dictators; funneled aid to the Contras through convicted drug-dealers; went to the Philippines and commended Marcos, the former President, on his commitment to democracy. And he's talking about judgement?"

The governor's seizure of the Iran-Contra controversy is surprising, since polls indicate that it does not matter much in voters' minds. Republicans regard it as a "stale" issue that will not hurt Mr Bush.

Pollution curbs fail to shift Athens smog cloud

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Emergency curbs on traffic and industry yesterday failed to dispel the dense cloud of pollution that has made breathing in Athens a health hazard.

Trapped overhead on a windless day by a heat wave of 36°C (97°F), this suffocating mega-blob of gas, fumes and suspended particles discredited the anti-pollution measures by hitting a record.

The alert was sounded this week just as Athenian families returned from summer holidays.

The non-holiday restrictions on private vehicles — which are allowed into the city's inner circle only between 7 am and 8 pm on alternate weekdays — were reimposed.

By Tuesday readings of nitrogen

dioxide, a noxious pollutant emitted mainly by car exhausts and akin to laughing gas, had come close to the warning level of 500 milligrams per cubic metre. Hardly a laughing matter. The Environment Ministry promptly extended the traffic restrictions to the whole of greater Athens and ordered industry to cut production by 30 per cent. People with heart trouble and circulatory problems were urged to stay indoors.

But by 11 am yesterday, the monitoring stations in the centre of Athens recorded an unprecedented 561 milligrams per cubic metre of nitrogen dioxide. The ministry was forced to extend the curbs for another 24 hours after hearing the weather forecast for another windless, hot day today.

It was difficult to discern the silhouette of the Acropolis from Mt.

Lycabettus, nearly a mile away, behind the haze of early-morning pollution yesterday. Although hospitals reported few casualties, Athenians complained of discomfort in the eyes and throat, headaches and nausea. Increased irritability was all too evident.

The problem of pollution, or *nefos* (cloud) as the Athenians call it, is not new, but has been worsening steadily. This is the fourth smog alert in Athens, which is quickly acquiring a reputation as Europe's most heavily polluted capital.

The ruling Greek Socialists who, before coming to power in 1981, treated the *nefos* as a political problem that their conservative rivals did not have the guts to solve, are now alarmed by the ineffectiveness of their remedies and the political cost of failure. After the last

spate of pollution alerts in December, the Government announced a wide-ranging programme to curb emissions.

It was remarkable for its vagueness as ministers avoided bringing in unpopular measures.

The abolition of the *siesta*, the four-hour lunch break, which had halved the peak traffic hours to two, was rescinded, on the ground that continuous working hours were too cruel in the summer.

The end of the summer is unlikely to change that, particularly in an election year.

Government officials, who have no doubt that motor traffic is chiefly responsible for the *nefos*, have recommended incentives to induce Athenians to buy new cars and get rid of some 200,000 vehicles that are 15 or more years old — one-fifth of

the total car population in the Athens area. Mr Kostas Bourkas, the official responsible for anti-pollution in the Environment Ministry, said the capital's 10,000 taxis caused as much pollution as 400,000 private cars. He wants them replaced every five years.

Greek environmentalists are alarmed at what they regard as the Government's inaction.

They claim that pollution contributed to at least 3,000 deaths in 1987. Greek lung experts quoted a recent survey to claim that the city's daily average death rate rises by at least six on high pollution days.

They said that between 1982 and 1986 average daily deaths were 35.5 on days when smoke levels were below 50 milligrams per cubic metre, rising to 41.2 when readings topped 350 milligrams.

South African 'pathology of hatred' blamed for attack on the offices of anti-apartheid groups

Churches condemn 'evil' forces after bomb destroys HQ

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A bomb virtually destroyed Khotso House, the Johannesburg headquarters of the South African Council of Churches, shortly before dawn yesterday, the South African police said. The blast had injured at least 23 people and had rendered the building "unusable".

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, described the bombing as "a new low" in the behaviour of those who sought to destroy the witness of the churches against "the evil and un-Christian policies of the South African Government".

Last night the Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Adriaan Vlok, said that several possibilities were being investigated by the police. Explosives experts and forensic scientists had, however, not yet been able to look for clues because the building had been declared unsafe.

It is thought that a bomb was left in a car in the parking area beneath the six-storey building. The blast destroyed most of the ground floor, causing it to collapse into the basement. The Rev Frank

Chikane, secretary-general of the council, said yesterday that, in the light of previous bomb threats, he was "shocked, but not completely surprised, at the callous attack" on Khotso House.

"We note that some (previous) attacks have been launched on buildings that house organizations effective in their service to the underprivileged and marginalized communities and those organizations that resist apartheid."

"We have no doubt that the darkest forces of evil are ranging themselves against the church of God... We wish to reassure our member churches, and all the people we serve, that we will continue to do God's work with added determination and renewed commitment. If God is with us, no one can be against us."

The Rev Peter Storey, a leading Methodist churchman, spoke of "a pathology of hatred" in South African society, and said the bombing seemed to be "part of a cycle of violence that we have become trapped in because of the intransigence of those who

could bring us to a more just dispensation very, very quickly, if they had the will to".

Khotso House (House of Peace in the local Sotho language) also contained offices of the Anglican and Lutheran churches, the Black Sash, a civil rights group run by white women, the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, which fights the forced removal of black squatters from white areas, and the militant, mainly black, Catering and Allied Workers' Union.

The United Democratic Front, an umbrella body embracing hundreds of grassroots anti-apartheid organizations, and the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee, which was set up to campaign on behalf of people jailed without trial, also had offices in the building.

Observers here were struck by the similarity between yesterday's explosion and one in May last year which wrecked Cosatu House, then the headquarters in Johannesburg of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. Another bombing, about six months



People in Johannesburg surveying wreckage littering the street after a bomb shattered Khotso House, a building used by several anti-apartheid groups.

later, badly damaged Community House in Cape Town, where the Western Cape Council of Churches and the local branch of the United Democratic Front had their offices. Both crimes remain unsolved.

The most likely explanation of yesterday's attack on Khotso House is that it was the work of extreme right-wing groups or agents of the "dirty tricks" department of the security police, and that it was intended as retaliation for recent bombings in city centres for which the authorities

have blamed the outlawed African National Congress.

Black church leaders have moved into increasingly sharp confrontation with the Government over the past year. On July 29, Archbishop Tutu, Mr Chikane, and other clerics infuriated Pretoria by defying the state of emergency regulations to issue a public call for a boycott of October's nationwide elections for segregated municipal councils - regarded as puppet bodies by radical blacks.

In an appeal directed chiefly at their black followers, the

churchmen called on all Christians to refrain from taking part in the elections, either as voters or as candidates, to avoid "participating in their own oppression".

The municipal elections have become an important test of wills between the Government and black anti-apartheid organizations. Pretoria wants as big a turnout as possible to show that it has the support of what it claims is the "moderate" black majority.

Most of the people injured in yesterday's blast lived in a block of flats across the street

from Khotso House. Most of the flats are occupied by black tenants who have settled illegally in what is still formally a whites-only area.

The police cordoned off the building yesterday and allowed no one in. There was concern that the security police would have a free run of the files of the organizations housed there.

● LISBON: Mozambican rebels claimed yesterday that they have captured the captain and five crew members of an East German ship which was allegedly returning from

delivering arms to guerrillas in Kenya (AP reports).

The Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) said, in a statement released here, that they seized Captain Joachim Haluk, two other East Germans, two Kenyans, and one Cape Verdean while they were in a small launch making for the coast of southern Mozambique on August 21.

According to the Renamo statement, Captain Haluk said his ship had delivered a "large quantity of arms" to guerrillas of the Ukenia opposition party.

Doubts in Turkey as Kurds flock across the border

By Hazhir Teimourian

Turkish officials estimated that more than 50,000 Kurdish refugees have fled from northern Iraq into Turkey to escape the heavy fighting between the Iraqi Army and autonomy-seeking Kurdish guerrillas.

Many more were said to be trekking along mountain passes towards the country, which has opened its border with Iraq to take in refugees.

In Istanbul, the National Security Council held an extraordinary session to consider the implications of the exodus. More signs emerged that the Turkish Cabinet is not sure what to do next.

The migration is caused mainly by fear of the chemical weapons alleged to have been used by Iraq. Most of those crossing the border head for the province of Hakkari, in Turkey's south-eastern region.

Mr Sahabettin Harput, the provincial governor, said that he had received instructions not to provide detailed figures. "The issue concerns more than one government", he said.

"All I can tell you is that the numbers still trying to enter Turkey can be measured in tens of thousands. They are mainly women and children".

Reports said that the refugees were being kept in border enclaves tightly guarded by security forces.

Several opposition members of the Turkish Parliament have said there should be no restrictions on those wishing to enter the country. "They are fleeing from poison gas", they said.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, has said that his Government would permit some men to enter, to avoid splitting families among the refugees but reports from the frontier said that all able-bodied males were being

forced to return to Iraq in case they were members of the Peshmarga guerrilla armies of the Kurds.

Mr Erkan Vuralhan, the Defence Minister, has expressed reservations about the wisdom of the policy apparently being advocated by the Prime Minister.

Mr Vuralhan said that giving the Kurds of northern Iraq unrestricted access to Turkey would cause grave problems. "We do not know how many will come, or how many would be friendly," he said.

Turkey, which has an estimated 10 million Kurds of its own, is suspected of wanting to keep incentives strong among the refugees for leaving the country as soon as fighting subsides in Iraq.

The state constitution denies the separate cultural and ethnic identity of the Kurds and the speaking of the Kurdish language remains an offence.

In West Berlin, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said that up to 60,000 Iraqi troops, with air support and making wide-spread use of mustard gas, were trying to overrun the party's military stronghold in the Sidikan region, close to the borders with Turkey and Iran.

In Geneva, a spokesman for the United Nations said that the world body was not taking any action against Iraq. He said that no member state had requested an investigation into allegations that Iraq was using banned chemical arms against its Kurdish population.

In London, the Labour Party yesterday said it was concerned at reports that Iraq was using chemical weapons and called on the British Government to make urgent representations to Iraq.

Leading article, page 11

Racism storm blows up in New Zealand

From Richard Long, Wellington

The confused state of race relations in New Zealand was highlighted yesterday when the country's race relations conciliator ordered a newspaper to apologize for publishing a "kill a white" statement from a Maori activist, but took no action against the activist.

The decision by the conciliator, Mr Wally Hirsh, was met with a storm of criticism from opposition National Party spokesmen and a refusal by the *Auckland Star* newspaper to apologize.

Miss Judy McGregor, editor of the *Star*, Auckland's evening newspaper, said it was a paper's job to report the news, not to censor it. She said Mr Hirsh was blaming the messenger for the message and the paper would not apologize.

The conciliator has no powers to enforce his decisions, although newspapers generally comply with his rulings. The action against the newspaper's Sunday edition, the nationally distributed *Sunday*

Star, arose from a front-page report of comments made by a Maori activist, Miss Hana Te Hemara, at an Auckland University meeting on March 18.

Miss Hemara was quoted as advising depressed young Maoris to "kill a white and become a hero" rather than commit suicide.

Although she later denied the quote, it was confirmed by many of the first-year law students, law lecturers and university officials who attended the meeting.

Mr Hirsh immediately received complaints about the comment, but said he would not take action against Miss Hemara as she was speaking in the privacy of a meeting.

Under the Act which governs his office, he could consider only statements made in a public place. However, he ruled that the *Sunday Star*, which published his comments in a public place, should apologize for its sensational reporting of the incident. But Miss McGregor said the sec-



Mr Lange: His race relations policy is causing confusion.

of the Race Relations Act which made such decisions possible should be amended as it was held in public ridicule and contempt.

However, Mr Hirsh replied that he was not convinced that New Zealand society was mature enough to cope with complete freedom of speech.

The decision comes at a time when the Government of Mr David Lange is under severe pressure for its action

in attempting to correct Maori grievances stemming from the land wars of last century and the great land seizure which followed.

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the Justice Minister, who has overseen the legislative move to deal with those wrongs, says that Maori expectations had been raised too high and European concerns have been equally aroused to too high a pitch.

The Government had no immediate comment on Mr Hirsh's ruling, but Mr Paul East, the Opposition justice spokesman, said Mr Hirsh missed the target completely.

The total blame for this disgraceful episode lies squarely with the person who made the racist statement," he said.

"In an open democratic country like New Zealand, the news media have a responsibility to report inflammatory statements made by Maori radicals, especially when they are delivered to an impressionable collection of

university students." Mr Winston Peters, the opposition spokesman on Maori affairs, said: "If sickly, white liberalism needs a mascot, then this judgement would be eminently suitable."

"The *Sunday Star* was merely reporting the extremist garbage of a prominent Maori activist."

"His utterances were offensive and racist... Mr Hirsh's findings only served to suggest that a reverse apartheid applies in the Race Relations Office."

● Broadcasting reform: Maximum foreign ownership of radio and television companies in New Zealand has been raised from 5 to 15 per cent under the Government's moves this week to split the state broadcasting corporation into two state-owned enterprises - Television New Zealand and Radio New Zealand.

In the case of radio stations, 25 per cent foreign ownership could be allowed, but only with the specific approval of the Government.

India steps up jungle offensive on Tamils

Colombo (Reuters) - An intensified army drive against Tamils in Sri Lanka's northern jungles left 29 rebels and 13 Indian soldiers dead, military sources said.

"Operation Checkmate," launched in May, was stepped up two weeks ago in the Wanni jungles in a bid to capture leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Tigers, who confirmed that heavy fighting was still continuing, fled there after being driven out of their main base in Jaffna in a battle last October, which followed rebel repudiation of an Indo-Sri Lankan pact aimed at ending ethnic conflict.

Aid resumed

Harare (Reuters) - The US resumed aid to Zimbabwe, suspended two years ago after Harare criticized America's policy on South Africa.

Rich pickings

Nice (Reuters) - A cat-burglar took advantage of an open hotel window in the French Riviera resort of Antibes to steal jewellery valued at \$98,000 from a guest.

Escape fails

West Berlin (Reuters) - Two men and a woman were arrested by East German guards after trying to drive a lorry past a border post into West Germany.

Surgery move

Surgeons will decide today whether to operate on Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who is in England for heart treatment.

Killer's bonus

Huntsville (AP) - A man condemned to death in this Texas town for murdering a policeman received a last-minute reprieve to December because his death warrant, awaited by the prison, has been lost in the post.

Hard labour

Accra (Reuters) - A West German businessman has been sentenced in Ghana to nine months hard labour for breaking currency laws.

Hostages free

Manila (AP) - Muslim rebels freed four of 12 people they abducted in the southern Philippines after the hostages' families paid an unknown ransom, the military reported.

Asylum plea

Mollet del Valles (Reuters) - Two Romanians who smuggled themselves into Spain by hiding for a week in a lorry crossing the Romanian-Yugoslav border asked for political asylum, officials in this northern Spanish town said.

Ordered out

Cerignola (Reuters) - About 130 illegal North African immigrants found working as farmhands in this area of south-east Italy are to be expelled.

Separate ways

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Julianne Phillips, aged 28, the actress wife of the rock star Bruce Springsteen, has filed for divorce.

Takeshita takes an economic tack in his Peking talks

From Brian Robins, Tokyo

Economic pragmatism set the tone of bilateral discussions held this week between Japan and China during the first official visit to Peking by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita.

Political and foreign policy differences were largely in the background, with the focus of most of the talks firmly on economic issues.

Those foreign policy issues which were discussed were limited to China's hopes for reducing tension on the Korean peninsula, the prospect of China gaining an element of control over Taiwan, and also the outlook for a peace settlement in Cambodia.

Japan's vague attempts to strike out and undertake its own diplomatic initiatives were blunted by China's concentration on bilateral issues.

Equally, potentially divisive issues were swept under the carpet. These centre on the rapid increase in Japan's military spending and the smouldering issue of who owns a student dormitory in the city of Kyoto, built before the Chinese revolution, which a local court has ruled belongs to Taiwan rather than the mainland Government.

The main thrust of Mr Takeshita's approach was to usher in a new era of partnership between the countries. His visit marked the

10th anniversary of the signing of a joint treaty of friendship and he was anxious not to dwell on recent controversies.

Accordingly a smooth, low-key visit was the aim for Mr Takeshita, and this was the outcome, with no discordant notes struck during his five-day stay.

The key foreign issue raised during the visit was Cambodia. During meetings with the Communist Party's General Secretary, Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese leader made it clear he would not recognize single-party rule by the Khmer Rouge, agreeing with the

broad concept of the establishment of a single, four-party coalition government as the key step to resolving the potential impasse, once Vietnam completes its often promised troop withdrawals.

Equally, when discussing both the situation in Cambodia and Korea, the Chinese Government representatives were comparatively low-key, avoiding any detailed discussion as they sought to focus on purely bilateral issues.

In the context of Cambodia, a surprise approach from the Soviet Union in holding talks with China last weekend points to the possibil-

ity of some progress on this issue between the two communist superpowers. But few expect any quick or substantial progress.

In line with China's new stance of economic pragmatism, this was the main point for discussion during Mr Takeshita's stay.

In his meetings with Mr Deng Xiaoping, for example, the senior Chinese leader welcomed the additional \$10 billion yen (£3.47 billion) in concessional lending committed by Japan, stating that he considers Japan's economic assistance as "by no means small".

"I am thankful for it and

welcome it," Mr Deng said. He added that the assistance was needed to accomplish the country's economic reforms and programme of modernization. "We are proceeding firmly and steadily. Economic assistance from abroad is necessary."

"The energy of Japan's medium and small-sized firms is great," he said. "It is desirable that Japan continue to invest in China and promote the transfer of technology."

The focus of discussions with Mr Deng was economic, with the veteran Chinese leader harking

back to the era of strong bilateral relations of the late 1970s. "I want to build a new era like that we enjoyed during the days of former Prime Ministers Kakuei Tanaka and Masayoshi Ohira."

Despite the present series of economic difficulties plaguing China, Mr Deng was confident that progress will continue, stating during the talks with Mr Takeshita that China's per capita income will reach \$800 by the turn of the century.

China, Mr Deng said, will continue with the economic restructuring presently under way, with the aim of boosting per capita income to \$4,000 during the next century, by which time, he claimed, China will be a middle-income country.

Equally, during Mr Takeshita's talks with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the party General Secretary pushed for greater Japanese investment, especially in coastal areas. "These areas, with a good investment climate, are very promising and have great possibilities in the future," he was quoted as telling Mr Takeshita.

In addition, Mr Zhao reiterated China's formal position on Vietnam, stating that Hanoi's complete withdrawal is a prerequisite for peace in the region. He said that China supports the formation of a genuine coalition government in Cambodia, under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

China tries to damp down inflation worries

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

Amid rumours of government differences over the pace of price reform, China's State Council yesterday approved measures to ensure lower inflation.

The steps, seen as falling short of Peking's plan for sweeping price reforms, aim to end industrial unrest and quieten public concern about inflation, now 19 per cent.

Economic reform centres on freeing most prices from state control, allowing them instead to be determined by market forces. Subsidized prices are being replaced by pay subsidies to workers to enable them to cope with higher food prices, but

there have been many complaints that the size of subsidy has been badly calculated and is insufficient. Industrial unrest has been the result, with an unusual spate of strikes.

The council undertook not to initiate further price increases for the rest of the year, fuelling speculation of differences of opinion over price reform among China's leaders when they held their summer meetings in Beidaihe last month.

Business managers have said they have been forced to put up prices because of the rising cost of

raw materials. This led to debate on the timespan for price reform, with suggestions ranging from four to eight years.

Mr Zhao Ziyang, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, proposed implementation of the reforms over five years, and it appears that his estimate has won the day.

The meeting in Beidaihe, a summer resort, produced what was described as a "tentative plan" for wages and prices. The plan acknowledged that other measures, such as increased business efficiency, were necessary before price

reforms could be carried through successfully.

Suggestions to replace fixed pay subsidies with pay increases linked to inflation were also unofficially mentioned at the meeting.

The measures announced yesterday include provisions for interest rates on deposits for three years or more to at least equal the rate of inflation.

The Government would also try to guarantee the supply of foodstuffs and agricultural supplies, the council added, promising to penalize those responsible for unnecessary price increases.

SPECTRUM

Inflexible potentate of the Left

THE TIMES PROFILE

RON TODD

Back in the Seventies, years before we had even heard of the winter of discontent, Gallup asked the British public whom they regarded as the most powerful man in the country.

Perhaps it was one of those questions which hints at an answer just by being asked, but 54 per cent of those who replied named not Jim Callaghan, the then prime minister, but Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Ron Todd, the present occupant of Jack Jones's seat, was never going to have a chance of ranking in the first flight nationally as a man of power. Even when he was first elected, in 1984, it was common wisdom that the unions were a greatly diminished, perhaps broken, force, and that the general secretaryship of the TGWU was in addition a shadow of its former self.

Jones and his successor, Moss Evans, had largely dismantled Ernest Bevin's constitution, manufactured to establish the general secretary as effective master of his union, and therefore as one of the masters of the entire labour movement.

The leadership, which for 30 years had been handed down from potentate to potentate, was thrown open to a genuine contest between figures who were relatively unknown on the national scene. When Todd was first elected, in 1984, there was a tendency to regard him as a mere functionary — a "mini-Moss" even in comparison with the fairly colourless Moss Evans.

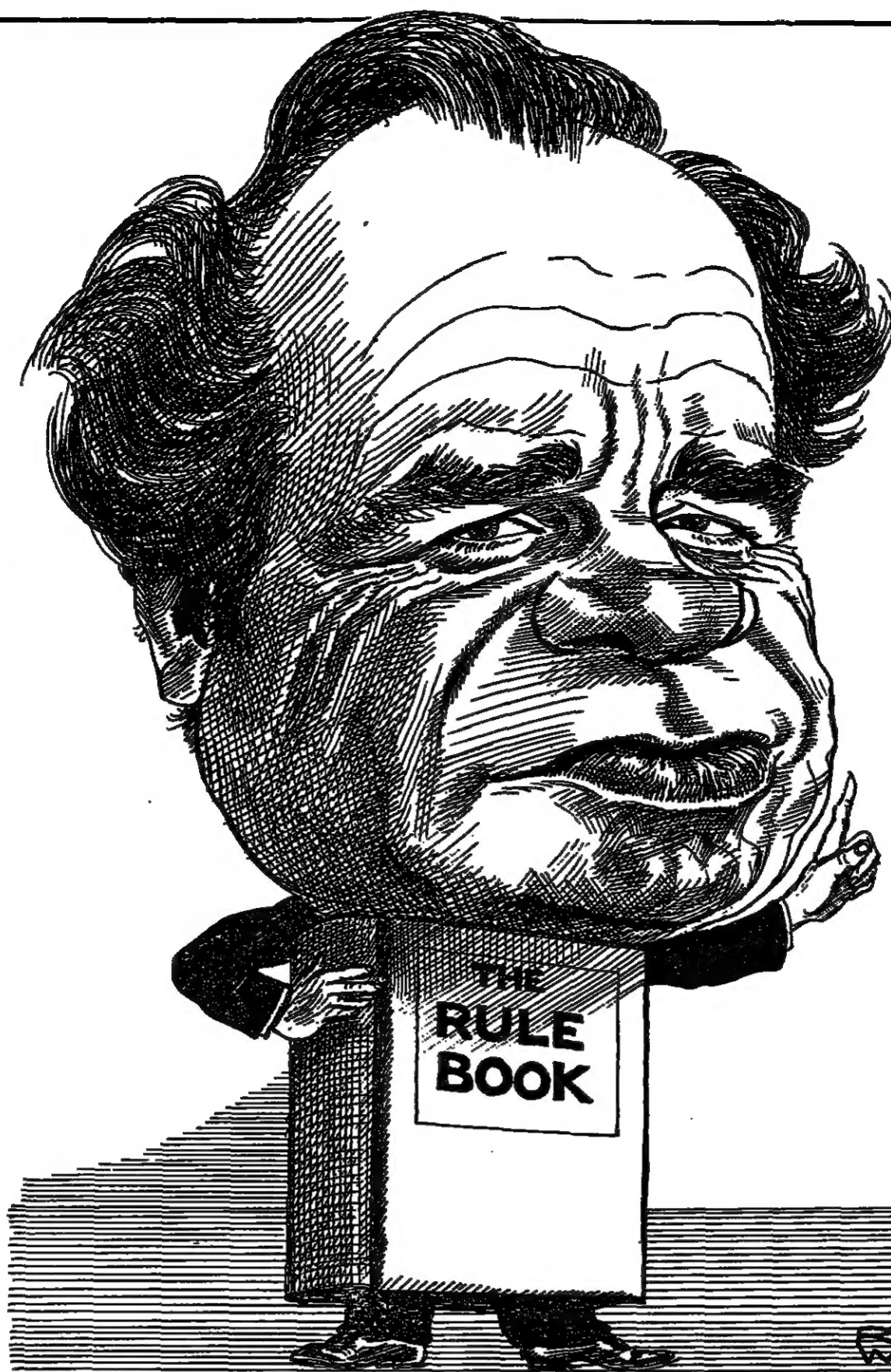
Yet this year this supposed nonentity has emerged as a party power-broker in some respects even more dominant than Bevin and Cousins in their heyday. No leader of the Labour Party has ever been so humbly called to heel by a union satrap as Neil Kinnock was by Ron Todd in the summer, after Kinnock had ventured to hint at a dilution of the party's policy of unilateral disarmament — which the TGWU first backed 26 years ago, long before

the party did. Todd's adamant opposition to plans for a Ford factory to be built at Dundee on a single-union deal with TGWU members excluded from its workforce — an opposition which finally led Ford to take the factory to Spain — has elevated him into the media's current favourite Red Bogeyman.

It is largely at his insistence that the electricians' union now stands on the brink of expulsion from the movement — a breach certain to hurt the movement far more than it hurts the electricians. It is largely his refusal to participate in the Government's new industrial training scheme, launched today, which condemns the movement to being little more than a critic on the sidelines.

His public style lays him open to the demonology of political abuse. Stocky, red-faced, hectoring, innocent of any outward air of finesse and unconcerned to modify for public consumption the marks of a genuine working-class background (an increasingly rare commodity in today's Labour Party), he fits all too easily into the stereotype of the old-fashioned shopfloor heavy. He is denounced as a prima donna; Eric Hammond of the electricians has called him "Sweeney Todd".

The reality, oddly enough, is closer to the original impression than to the new one. Todd may seem to have been lashing out with arrogant abandon in recent months, but it is nearer to the truth to say that he is, as predicted, a figure hamstrung by his constituency. Some, though not all, of the public stances which have earned him his bull-in-a-china-shop reputation have been imposed on an unwilling general secretary by an executive committee where the real boneheads are to be found. He is a blinkered but unimpeachable democrat in the service of some whose credentials are far from unimpeachable. Shrunk as it is from the days when its membership topped two million, the TGWU is still the biggest union in the western



BIOGRAPHY

1927: Born in Walthamstow, east London
1945: Married Josephine Tarrant; one son, two daughters
1945-47: National Service with Royal Marine Commandos in Hong Kong
1954-62: Ford production-line worker
1962: Full-time TGWU official at Ford
1976: South-East Regional Secretary, TGWU
1978: National Organizer (fourth in TGWU hierarchy)
1984-5: First and second elections to TGWU General Secretaryship
1987: Selected by Kinnock as only union leader on election planning team
February 1988: Ford pay dispute; hard Left take control of TGWU executive
March 1988: Ford abandons Dundee factory plan after TGWU opposition
May 1988: Todd resigns as TUC representative on new Training Commission
June 1988: Todd attacks Kinnock over hints of retreat from unilateralism

private life, which is one of stable relationships and loyalty to roots. He still lives modestly in Walthamstow, a few streets from the house he was born in. His childhood was one of real East End privation, and he has recalled how, during the diphtheria epidemic of 1932, he was taken to Chingford Isolation Hospital "with my two brothers and two sisters — one of my sisters was given only that night to live".

His family had worked in Walthamstow Market for generations, though his father had a job in the telephone exchange. Both parents were musical, and his mother, who is still alive, was a semi-professional pianist who used to provide atmospheric background music to silent films in the local cinema. Todd became a skilful pianist himself, with a particular taste for Victorian ballads. He is also a keen collector of antiquities ranging from sheet-music to fossils, and when he has time to spare has joined in as an amateur on archaeological digs.

They were a Catholic family. The future champion of unilateralism did not resist being called up for national service in 1945, and still recalls with some pride how he and his father became the first father and son in the Royal Marines to appear on parade together. Later, Todd was sent to Hong Kong, where he was deeply affected by the social inequalities there, and by degrees lost his religious faith and became a socialist.

Demobbed, he spent some time as a plumber and gas-fitter before joining the Ford Motor Company as a production-line worker and finding his vocation as a union official. As a negotiator he was and is more flexible and pragmatic than his thumping oratorical style might suggest, and on the whole prefers to see a bargain kept once it has been made.

His personal beliefs in old-fashioned trade union practices and loyalties, and in unilateral disarmament, are simple and sincere. His insistence in 1985 on a re-run of the disputed ballot in which he was elected general secretary, against the opposition of most of those round him, is evidence of his integrity. But he has harnessed his integrity to an outlook which has been bypassed by history, and to the forces of a new left with which he has little in common. With the best of motives, he has been led in recent months to inflict on the cause he holds most dear a series of blows from which it will not easily recover.

George Hill

world, and its leadership will always be apt to exert undue sway over the Labour Party so long as the party remains in thrall to the block vote. The process of cutting the general secretary down to size merely passed the union's immense power to an executive committee elected by workplace ballots which are notoriously open to manipulation.

Todd's main shortcoming is a

resolute determination to see everything done fair and square and by the rules. He is not a trimmer. As far as he is concerned, the movement he grew up in is still what it always was, and it angers and grieves him to see its Hammonds and Jordans responding to new realities.

His personal relationships with his opponents in the movement are good, for he is a warm man. He

recently made a last-hope private appeal to Eric Hammond, and assured him that there was no truth in media claims that he had given orders for a free-for-all of membership poaching if the electricians were expelled as expected.

"I told him that I had already instructed all my regional secretaries that I won't have my people behaving like jackals," he says. "I urged him to change

course, but he said he couldn't. I see no cause to rejoice because our prime concern must be the unity of the movement. But in the wider interests of the movement we have to accept the rules."

There is no question that he will sincerely regret it if the electricians leave what he calls "the family fold of the TUC". As the phrase suggests, his attitude to the movement is all of a piece with his

been made. His personal beliefs in old-fashioned trade union practices and loyalties, and in unilateral disarmament, are simple and sincere. His insistence in 1985 on a re-run of the disputed ballot in which he was elected general secretary, against the opposition of most of those round him, is evidence of his integrity. But he has harnessed his integrity to an outlook which has been bypassed by history, and to the forces of a new left with which he has little in common. With the best of motives, he has been led in recent months to inflict on the cause he holds most dear a series of blows from which it will not easily recover.

George Hill

When the school term starts, drama teachers, who so often complain of being kept waiting in the wings of the curriculum, can draw some encouragement from events now in play at the National Theatre.

The NT can be said to have started a new term of its own after the long tenure of its founding head, Sir Peter Hall. Sir Peter was never shy about the educative properties of theatre; indeed he was responsible for the imaginative choice of its present head of education, Kevin Cahill. The big difference is that under the new regime of Richard Eyre and his deputy, David Aukin, Cahill has found himself drawn towards the inner circle of policy makers. The implications for our schools, for the National, and for the mutual access of the two, are considerable.

Where Sir Peter surrounded himself with associate directors — eminent theatricals such as Harold Pinter and Michael Bogdanov — the theatre's policy under Eyre is to be determined by a central artistic board. There are still eminent theatricals here (Tony Harrison, Peter Gill) but there is also room for the education officer. It is as though a policy adviser were suddenly called in by the new prime minister to sit in Cabinet with full ministerial status.

It means, firstly, that education has a recognized portfolio at the National, and that when Cahill lobbies for the programme to take in a particular play on the grounds of its value for a school audience, he cannot be dismissed as a well-meaning single-issue pest.

Secondly, it means that the National will be taking more small-scale productions out to schools in London and the regions, and preparing teaching material to help pupils understand not only what goes on at the South Bank but also in the theatre in general.

Cahill, aged 36, has already been in the job for several years, having previously run a drama department in South Trafford. He detects strong moves afoot in education for the theatre to be legitimized.

"A-level in drama is one of the fastest expanding subjects," he says. "I think this is because it is a subject that requires active participation from those who are learning. It also has something to do with the incredibly wide range of subject matters which drama addresses."

"But it is important to draw the clear distinction between Theatre in Education projects, and the kind of thing which we are engaged in here. TIE tends to concentrate on an issue — it might be abortion, or the bomb, or apartheid — and

Pied piper at the NT

The National Theatre is moving education to the centre stage



Cahill: into the inner circle

then express the resulting debate in a dramatized form. Our approach is shaped by the belief that the theatre and its plays are a means of getting at a subject and examining it.

The copious work-sheets produced by him and his

small team illustrate the point. They run pretty well across the spectrum of dramatic literature in the English language, from *King Lear* to *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, with such challenging propositions as this, on the Tennessee Williams play: "Take one scene (for example, between Brick and his father) and draw a graph showing the emotional highs and lows for the separate characters in it."

Two of the NT education department's most successful touring shows have been the Cicely Berry production of *Hamlet*, and Brecht's *The Mother*, starring Yvonne Bryceland. Already two touring productions have been the direct result of work done at the National's studies. *Fall Fairness Five*, a study of madness drawing on some of Shakespeare's major plays, and *Apert From George*, which looks at the effects of redundancy on a farmworker and his family in the Cambridgeshire fens.

While Cahill and his team continue to expand a body of educational work that started in 1982, they are always on the look-out for people, not necessarily professional playwrights, able to supply material or ideas that will involve and stimulate the imagination of the young. Money may be tight, but penury is kept at bay largely

from sponsorship by Lloyds Bank, W.H. Smith and BP towards an annual budget of £500,000.

At present NT Education has a membership of 7,000 schools, each of which receives a free newsletter and the chance to buy tickets at £3 each. Last year alone 55,000 tickets were bought through this outlet.

The ideals of the National's work in education are perhaps best expressed by the success of their recent production of *The Pied Piper*, in which 650 London primary school children took part, in groups of 60, on the stages of the Lyttelton and Olivier Theatres. "There was one school with this girl who was dumb and very withdrawn," Cahill recalls. "We went there with *The Pied Piper* and we all worked away on the movement, singing and acting. Gradually she picked up the rhythm and became so involved in the whole process that she came out of herself and became, before one's eyes, utterly transformed. It was more gratifying, more rewarding than I can begin to describe."

Since education means, literally, a leading out, what more fitting role could the National find for itself than one which allows it to emulate the piper's allure?

Alan Franks



NEXT WEEK

Who is the real Prince Charles? As he approaches his 40th birthday *The Times* looks at our future king: who does he listen to — who listens to him?

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SCIENCE REPORT

Riddle at the heart of a supernova

Supernova 1987A, the star which exploded in the Large Magellanic Cloud next to the Milky Way, is 18 months old, and has largely behaved as astronomers expected it would. The shell of gas thrown off by the huge explosion is cooling and getting dimmer but what remains at its centre, where the star that blew up used to be, is proving something of a puzzle.

The explosion, on February 23 last year, threw off the star's outer layers and at the same time nuclear reactions created a great mass of radioactive nickel which, decaying first into cobalt and then into iron, kept the supernova remnant hot. But that source of heat is fading, and astronomers are beginning to see into the interior of the cooling remnant.

The Japanese Ginga satellite and a Russian instrument aboard the Mir space platform have detected X-rays from the supernova which, being of much greater energy than light or radio waves, can fight their way out from the denser interior regions of the remnant, and thus serve astronomers seeking to probe the remnant's core.

Some of the X-rays are easy to explain; others, as Martin Rees and Andrew Fabian remark in today's *Nature*, are not. Those of higher energy ("hard" X-rays) are produced directly by the decay of radioactive cobalt. But the super-active cobalt, which cannot have come from radioactive decay. Furthermore, their intensity has been seen to go up and down in a matter of days, apparently randomly.

Apart from radioactive de-

cay, the only other plausible source of energy within the remnant is a rapidly spinning neutron star, an ultra-dense body with the mass of the Sun but only 10 miles across. As the neutron star spins it whips up any material nearby to high speed, creating a small volume of hot, agitated atoms. Some soft X-rays are directly produced in this mayhem, but not enough to explain what is seen.

Rees and Fabian, of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, argue that to explain both the intensity and the variability of the soft X-ray emission there must be small, rather dense blobs of gas surrounding the neutron star which, one by one, are engulfed by the expanding volume of agitated material at the remnant's core. Each time this happens the gas is suddenly

heated to as much as one hundred million degrees, and radiates X-rays. After a day or two it cools down, and is seen no more.

From the nature of the soft X-ray emission, Rees and Fabian estimate the size and number of gas clouds. The problem then is to explain where they came from: the supernova explosion would have blown away any such blobs of gas.

A possibility, say the Cambridge astronomers, is that the star that exploded was part of a binary system, with a companion star orbiting around it. The second star could have survived the blast, perhaps severely disrupted, and gas torn from its surface layers could now be forming a cocoon around the neutron star, and aggregating into lumps that produce sporadic bursts of X-rays.

This explanation may or may not be right, but will be amenable to observational tests over the coming years. The history of the first year of supernova 1987A — an explosion and its immediate consequences — was relatively simple; now, with a neutron star and gas clouds and magnetic fields and radiation of all kinds, things are getting more complicated and unclear, just what astrophysicists thrive on.

David Lindley

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The photograph accompanying "Exploding the world of architecture" (Spectrum, yesterday) was of one of Bernard Tschumi's follies at Parc de la Villette on the outskirts of Paris, not Frank Gehry's Aerospace Museum in Los Angeles as stated.

THURSDAY PAGE

When is a nanny not a mother?

Kate Barton, married, with one-year-old Lily, is fairly new to the business of hiring nannies. After a couple of temporary mother's helps she found her first "proper nanny", 18-year-old Sarah Vousden, from The Lady. Sarah lives in at the Bartons' London home, has her own room and bathroom, and is paid "the going rate" with three weeks' holiday a year. She is supposed to babysit three nights a week but is seldom needed as often as that, and has every weekend off.

Sarah is qualified but Kate does not think this is terribly important: "It does help give a girl confidence." Kate runs her own small children's-wear company from home, the General Clothing Company, and is in and out of the house during the day. "I knew Sarah was right at the interview. The first week she was finding her feet and I was around all the time, as I said to her, not to check up, but just so that she could ask me what she needed to know. There were no problems at all. I was very clear from the start exactly what I wanted. But as much as we get on, we have an understanding that she doesn't spend evenings with my husband and me. She goes out if she wants. She doesn't drink and as a reformed smoker myself I wouldn't have a smoker in the house. We don't have any house rules as such. I'm very informal - she calls me Kate - and we chat about things as we go along."



Right first time: young nanny Sarah Vousden (left) with Kate Barton and one-year-old Lily

Today's nanny has to combine at least a dozen roles, from cook to shrink to entertainer - and even, in certain circumstances, act as mother. How will she cope? Will it be junk food, all-day television and sweets on

demand as soon as your back is turned? Will her views on

discipline and punishment coincide with yours? Charlotte Breese and Hilaire Gomer outline some of the ingredients for an ideal performance, and suggest ways to encourage your own nanny to become a perfect all-rounder



employers have strong views on the subject of a nanny's roles. A few expect their nanny to be mother-like when the mother isn't there. Many say that when they are around, the nanny is not a mother. Most agree that nannies are no substitute for mothers at bedtime, when the children are ill, or when they need congratulating when something good has happened. "She can't deal with schools and teachers and reports, hospital and other tests and she can't be expected to cope with some crises alone," said one employer.

Nannies sometimes find the mother's role perplexing. "I can't understand why they had children when they can't be bothered with them," said one.

They also have different ideas as to their own role: "I

treat Jacob very much as if he were my son." "I'm going to leave this job so I cannot and should not become too emotionally involved" - "I tell the children that I am not their mother and that I'm not one of the family."

Nanny as Sole Charger: The wise employer will not entrust a nanny with at least two years' experience. Many employers are wrong in thinking that they needn't worry about what the nanny or childminder does in their absence, so long as their child can talk and tell them what happened that day. It is probable that if a child has been roughly treated, he won't mention it. They may not tell about less extreme but none the less undesirable events, for example: "We watched telly all day. Joyce had a little sleep." "When we cry Joyce says shut up 'cos she's on the phone."

A working mother must rely

entirely on the nanny to report humdrum happenings like whether the children painted, read the new library book, fell over in dancing or decided they liked spinach. She has to be trusted not to take the easy option with their nutrition, play, manners, nappies and in running the home.

Working mothers get frustrated at being unable to prevent nannies doing things their way, even when they know that their employer would disapprove. One mother sums it up: "I have always felt that my little prejudices - food, creative play and the like - are treated very seriously when I am around, and are out the window when I am through the door."

Ignore the mothers who claim they have "complete confidence" in their nanny. It is healthier to respect and like a nanny but remember she is human and fallible.

Nanny as Shrink: A committed nanny will give a child her undivided attention some of the time. From this will grow that wordless communication which is instinctive between mother and child. Some mothers cannot cope with the intensity of this closeness; some revel in it.

If you watch a child with a good nanny, you will see how she feels things with the child. If a child has a human crutch and is secure in the knowledge that people notice and care and act on his behalf, he rates himself highly.

A nanny may have favourites, or even a chemical reaction against one of the children. If the latter occurs the employer probably knew from the beginning that there was a mutual antipathy and hoped things would improve. They may not. Maybe the nanny picks on one child much too often, or thinks one of them more "cuddly". Coincidentally, the one she is likely to want to cuddle most is the baby and his siblings will like him less. This is unprofessional behaviour and potentially damaging. Either the pattern is changed or the nanny must go.

Nanny as Minder: Accidents are the most common cause of death among toddlers and older children; the under-fours are especially at risk.

Many nannies find it dreary that an employer wants a long discussion with them about safety. Mother's helps and au pairs may never have thought about any aspect of child safety; it is the employer's job to educate them. Even if they are trained, they may have had very little practical experience of living with children.

Nanny as Nurse: The nanny or mother's help should always tell you if she notices any symptoms of illness, particularly high temperatures, or behaviour which is out of the ordinary. If she cannot get in touch with you, she should ring the doctor or the local clinic for advice.

Nanny as Cook: Trained nannies are meant to have learnt about food values, a balanced diet, and vitamins. The chances of meeting a nanny who is fond of brown rice, pulses, bean sprouts, wholemeal bread, spaghetti, low fat milk, polyunsaturates, steamed veg, fresh fruit and grilling rather than frying are slim - and the nannies aren't.

Before you founce in and throw a fit about the nanny's daily choice of tins, frozen food and instant whips for the children, remember that this is a very touchy area. Keep a sense of proportion; it is not vital that every meal is served and prepared as you would choose, but don't ignore its content.

You will need to agree about how much and what your children are to eat. Some people feel they would rather their children ate anything, rather than everyone having to suffer rows over muesli, greens and fruit.

Nanny as Disciplinarian: Having decided between you on the course of action to take on discipline, there should be no public disagreement about an issue. Ask the nanny to stick firmly to an agreed policy. Don't let the children play one off against the other, but present a united front and talk about it later.

Nannies hate having their authority undermined, justifiably. It is particularly irking when toddler manipulation wins out.

Even trained nannies with little practical experience may punish a child who is behaving in a way which is entirely appropriate for his age and stage, out of sheer ignorance.

Nanny as Scarecrow: A child is deeply affected by seeing an adult, and particularly one in whom he places his trust, obviously frightened or reduced to a jelly. It is not surprising therefore that what ever gives a nanny hysterics is likely to give the child problems in the future. Spiders, flies, snakes, creepy crawlies, bats and mice are common buggers. Water presents a threat to some.

Nanny as Potty Trainer: This requires the usual thing - talk about it beforehand, have a party line and both stick rigidly to it.

Try to persuade your nanny to treat the training process as though dealing with the child's eating habits and not to get emotional or bullying, and to avoid confrontation at all costs.

Nanny as Educator: It may give your nanny satisfaction to see herself as much as a teacher as a carer. She will gain a sense of achievement, as will her charge, when she helps him learn the alphabet and how to count. Of course, she must be sensible and sensitive about it and not become hectoring.

Nanny as Square Eyes: The use of television and the video is a flashpoint for many parents and nannies. Employers have every right to be tough about television if they want to be. It doesn't have to be used as a surrogate minder - not turning it off is a parallel to giving children daily doses of Phenegan so that they don't wake at night. Agree that television can be a life enhancer if she's responsible and selective about the programmes and channels she lets the children watch, if she watches with the child, and if he is given the chance of talking about it with her afterwards.

Nanny as Entertainer: Good child carers enjoy playing with their charges, adapting to a child's ideas and wishes. A nanny should think of herself as entertainments manageress and have something planned, either in her head or on paper, for most days. She also needs the flexibility to give up her full-filled programme when the child is clearly too tired or just plain unwilling.

If you are unlucky and have a nanny who isn't much good at entertaining the kids in a purposeful, energetic way, and it worries you, there is only so much you can do about it short of hiring someone else.

Nanny as Hostess: Tea, lunch, outings to the park, expeditions to museums or the zoo are more fun for both nannies and children if they are shared with their contemporaries. As an employer you encourage it within reason because it keeps everyone happy and busy. However, socializing can be overdone, and is meant to be, after all, for the benefit of the children. Inappropriate ages and stages of children, some of whom may be unknown to you, are signs that the nanny is putting her social life before the children's.

However, bear in mind that many experienced nannies consider socializing on duty a perk. It is one of the few aspects that make nannying preferable to a 9 to 5 job.

If you have an inexperienced nanny, don't feel inhibited about vetting surreptitiously any friends she brings to your house and steer her away from the rough trade in the nanny world. You don't want her to pick up bad habits and a world-weary expression.

The Good Nanny Guide by Charlotte Breese and Hilaire Gomer will be published on September 8 by Century (£6.95).

TOMORROW

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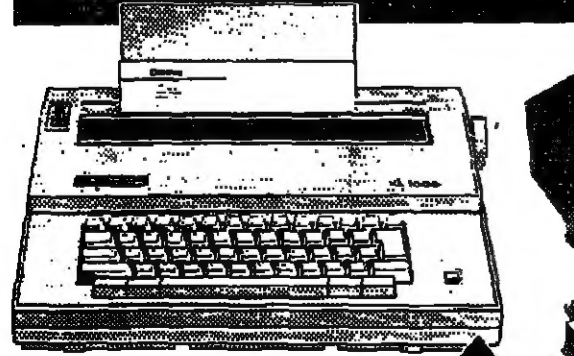
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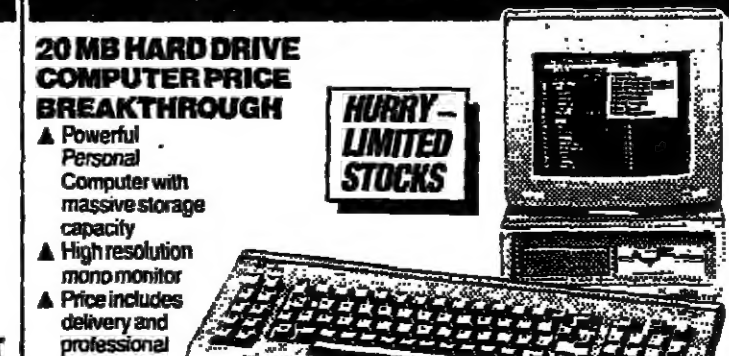


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HEALTH

A problem aching for answers

There is still a stigma associated with migraine, the most mysterious of all headaches, Victoria McKee reports, but a conference this week will show sufferers they are being taken seriously

Headaches are all in the mind... migraine sufferers are malingers. Society's scepticism adds to the discomfort of those racked by headaches or writhing in darkened rooms with throbbing migraines.

But the climate is changing. New research into headaches and migraines — the most fashionable and unfathomable of all headaches — means that sufferers are being taken seriously at last. Next Monday a three-day conference, on behalf of The Migraine Trust, set up in 1965 by the aptly-named Lord Brain, will begin in London. The symposium has been organized by Dr Frank Clifford Rose, an internationally acknowledged authority on headaches and migraines.

In America, there are almost as many "headache clinics" as there are television commercials for products promising instant relief. In Britain there is the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic at Charing Cross, funded partly by the NHS and partly by the Migraine Trust, whose patron is Princess Margaret. Clifford Rose says: "It is the only hospital and research clinic of its kind in the country."

Migraines afflict about 20 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women in Britain. But, Clifford Rose says, "people in the public eye do not like it known that they suffer from them. They are worried that it may be a stigma — and many of them come to me for preventive treatment before important occasions. You can't pull yourself together to go on stage or give a speech in the House of Commons if you're vomiting and can't see. Migraines are not trivial... lives are interfered with. They are a cause of unemployment, divorce and death."

A migraine attack can be devastating. Some sufferers rate only the "cluster" headache (described on the right) as being worse. A migraine involves episodic attacks of throbbing head pain lasting for about a day and nearly always includes nausea and vomiting or some gastro-intestinal symptom. It is usually one-sided and often accompanied by hypersensitivity to light and sound. Although migraines are most common in the teens and twenties, they can occur for the first time from childhood well into middle-age. The trust's paediatric migraine clinic sees about six new patients a week under 10 years old.

"There is an age and a sex link,"

Clifford Rose says. "But in children the sex incidence is equal: migraines only become much more common in females after they reach puberty, so the tendency is clearly hormone linked." Many women experience a migraine around the first day of their menstrual period — a type of migraine which almost always disappears during pregnancy, even if it returns afterwards.

Then there is "weekend migraine", so-called because it tends to strike on a Saturday, just when the victim is unwinding after a hectic working week. "Classical migraine", or "migraine with an aura" as it is sometimes called, begins with a blurred vision which starts "shimmering" and spreads until there is a semicircular blind spot which takes 20 minutes to disappear before a throbbing headache and waves of nausea take over.

"This spreading, scintillating scotoma is unique to migraine," Clifford Rose says. "We know it happens in the occipital lobe at the back of the brain and travels at the rate of 3mm a minute." Despite sophisticated ways of measuring such phenomena, no one is any surer than a Brazilian researcher called Leão was 40 years ago about this "spreading depression" which some argue is the reverse of epilepsy.

"Some patients may experience warning symptoms for 24 hours before the attack, which their families learn to recognize: they may become hyper-excited, or have cravings for food. During that time they can take a drug such as Domperidone and avoid the migraine," Clifford Rose says.

A tendency towards migraines is undoubtedly inherited. About 70 per cent are "one-sided" and a high proportion are accompanied by sensitivity to light and sound. In the short-term, preventive drugs work well and may even minimize the frequency and severity of attacks. But a long-term solution is elusive.

Pain-killers are readily available and widely advertised. But sufferers find it difficult to keep pills down, and those who do so risk dependence, and subsequent withdrawal problems. Clifford Rose does not recommend them.

He says: "There are several types of preventive drugs which are useful: Methysergide, marketed as Deseril, which is very effective but not widely



PAULA FOUENS

13 WAYS TO SUFFER

Headaches have at last been classified under 13 distinct headings, each with subsections. The basic classifications are:

● **Migraines:** episodic attacks of throbbing head pain lasting for about a day. Treatment only with preventive drugs as described on the left.

● **Tension-type:** start at the back of the head with a sensation of stiffness and may feel as if an iron band is gripping the head. Can be chronic, unlike episodic migraine. Respond well to tricyclic drugs which are anti-depressants.

● **Cluster:** said to be more painful than migraines. Occur in clusters lasting six weeks to three months, usually once a day — often waking the sufferer in the middle of the night. Six times more frequent in men than women. Easily treated with ergotamines. Another type requires lithium.

● **Miscellaneous:** including the three types of "sex headache". First, and most serious is an aneurysm, which can be ruptured during orgasm when blood pressure shoots up — and prove fatal. "Nelson Rockefeller may have had one," Clifford Rose says. Second, the benign orgasmic headache, which occurs more frequently in men than women and often in migraine sufferers and happens at the moment of orgasm. Third, a headache before orgasm. "Can be very disconcerting," Clifford Rose says, "although not serious." All respond well to aspirin-type painkillers.

● **Traumatic:** result of injury. No treatment. Improves as the injury heals.

● **Vascular:** due to constriction in the arteries, blood clots, stroke. Temporal arthritis can be the cause of painful headaches in the over-55s with a history of rheumatic aches. If not treated this can lead to blindness because it is an inflammation of the arteries, including those to the eyes. Responds well to steroids.

● **Raised pressure:** from tumours, meningitis. May be accompanied by vomiting, and be worse when coughing, sneezing. Different treatments.

● **Drug induced:** includes the "hot dog headache" — from eating meat cured with nitrates. "Chinese restaurant syndrome," from monosodium glutamate, and hangovers. Treatment: abstinence.

● **Infectious disease induced:** viral, bacterial, Aids, septicæmia. Treatments depend on cause.

● **Induced by metabolic disorders:** such as hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar), high altitude.

● **Referred headaches:** symptomatic pain "referred" from other parts of the body. The cause must be located and treated.

● **Neuralgia:** pain in the nerves, which may be precipitated by the cold. Responds well to treatment with tegretol.

● **Non-classifiable:** all the rest of the vague twinges that most of us experience.

used because of complications. If it is used for too long the kidneys may become blocked by fibrous tissue. Pizotifen, proprietary name Sanomigran, is more popular — but can cause an increase in weight. Then there are the ergot drugs, marketed as Casergot and Migril. These can also be habit-forming.

Newer "anti-serotonin" drugs are the big breakthrough which will be discussed at the symposium, and both ICI and Glaxo will be putting on presentations. Serotonin is released when blood platelets break down, as occurs during migraines. Clifford Rose says: "Nobody is quite sure why, but drugs that prevent the release of serotonin seem to act as migraine preventives."

Researchers at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, are looking into the diminished production of an enzyme called phenolsulphotransferase in migraine sufferers. This substance detoxi-

fies the phenols in red wine and chocolate which can trigger off an attack. At Guy's Hospital, Professor Maurice Lessof, a leading allergy expert and Professor of Medicine, suggests that some foods may trigger off attacks because they contain amines which can cause blood vessels to go into spasm. Clifford Rose asserts that in general the "vascular theory" of migraine has been exploded by new techniques which enable more accurate measurements of the blood flow to the brain.

Dr Seymour Diamond, of the Diamond Headache Clinic in Chicago, Illinois, who will speak on "migraine and depression" at the symposium, says: "People who get migraines often get depressed, and depressed people often get migraines — it's difficult to sort out which comes first." Diamond started his private clinic 20 years ago, and claims it to be the first and biggest in the United States, where there are now more than 100 such institutions.

Lessof, of Guy's, points out that no two migraine victims are exactly the same. "Everyone learns the little tricks that work for them. Some people find that going too long without food will produce a migraine regularly. Some find they are better avoiding any kind of alcohol. Some say they can drink unlimited champagne — others that it sets them off. Some find an anti-adrenaline drug which calms them, taken between attacks, is effective."

It seems, however, that there is no such thing as the "migraine personality" — although recent research shows that attacks can be stress-related. Sometimes a migraine can be triggered off by the very fear of its onset. It used to be said that victims were most often the more intelligent and ambitious. Clifford Rose observes that this might be because the attacks showed up in wealthy patients who came for treatment. "Or possibly because so many doctors had them."

Cold comfort for women

There is no longer any doubt that cervical screening can reduce death from carcinoma of the cervix. And there is little doubt of the close association between it and genital wart infection, even though it is known that not all patients who initially show changes on their smears associated with the wart virus will later develop any more serious problems.

There is considerable argument as to the best way of tackling the situation so that the expected 70 per cent increase in the number of patients in the 1990s with positive smears can be treated with minimal inconvenience and disturbance to their lifestyle. Colposcopy, the examination of the cervix with a portable illuminated microscope, combined with the traditional smear, halves the chance of the doctor missing a positive smear result. Colposcopy is usually combined with the painless taking of a small

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

sample from the cervix for examination later by a pathologist; it is no more uncomfortable, and only fractionally more embarrassing, than an ordinary gynaecological examination.

A recent study published in the journal of *Gynaecological Medicine* by Dr S.J. Wincestons, Dr C. Brown and Dr B. Goh of the London Hospital analysed the effect of cryotherapy — freezing — on 55 women in whom colposcopy had confirmed the presence of wart infection. In 17 of these women early cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia (CIN 1 and 2) was

also diagnosed. Any cases where the changes were already more marked and classified as CIN 3 (severe dysplasia or carcinoma *in situ*) had already been referred to the gynaecologists.

Sixteen patients with CIN 1 and 2 were followed up after treatment with cryotherapy — six months later only one still had persistent changes (she was referred to the gynaecologist). Of the 51 with wart changes, 46 had clear cervixes and these were successfully re-treated.

In the same survey the doctors checked the patients for other genital diseases: in the 86 women originally examined, 48 had genital warts on other places as well as their cervix, and 44 had other diseases (six had gonorrhoea, 14 had chlamydia, nine had TB, three had herpes, 24 had thrush and 32 had bacterial vaginitis). Thirty-eight of the women's 62 sexual partners who could be traced had a sexually transmitted disease.

The BMJ from the University of Oulu in Finland has shown that as disposable nappies have improved, so the number of urinary tract infections in babies has declined. Urinary tract infections in the first year of the baby's life are found most commonly in uncircumcised boys (1.12 per cent of them suffer), followed by girls (0.57 per cent). Circumcised boys are the lucky ones: they have a very low rate of only 0.11 per cent. Since 1978, the overall rate has been declining significantly — something the authors have linked to the improved design of disposable nappies. In the third world, where nappies are rare, so are urinary tract infections.

W.S. Sharps, President, International Federation of Health and Beauty Therapists, Felpham, West Sussex

Your article on exotic cosmetics (July 28) drew attention to the pseudo-science that has replaced the romantic claims of the past. The psychology of women's attitudes to personal treatment products is complex and there is insufficient space to discuss the issues here.

Only a small percentage sold in the UK are the subject of over-ambitious claims. The mainstream cosmetic industry produces safe and high-quality substances for those for whom a continental label and a high price are not essentials. There will always be magic on offer, but this is not unique to cosmetic marketing.

Cheering news

As the modest drinker downs his pint in the pub tonight, or the clubman his half bottle of claret, he should drink to the 121,964 nurses in America whose lifestyle has provided further evidence that alcohol in small quantities is good for the general health. Their evidence does something to rebut the outcry against alcohol in all its forms, and in all quantities, which has recently been gaining momentum. According to a report on the nurses' health published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, drinking

between three to 18 drinks a week halved the number of them who had heart attacks, and decreased the number who suffered from strokes due to clots in the cerebral arteries. The good news for men is that these nurses were mostly women, and experiments have shown that men can tolerate alcohol better than women. Heavy alcohol intake is indeed associated with liver disease, brain damage, high blood pressure, strokes due to haemorrhage (these were even increased by a moderate intake) and some forms of malignant disease, but the conclusion of the authors was, notwithstanding these conditions, that moderate alcohol consumption was beneficial.

Wrapped up

Thirty years ago nannies frowned on the use of disposable nappies. They preferred to use two types of Harrington Square, both neatly pinned. The inner layer was made of muslin, the outer of towelling. Disposable nappies at that time were messy, soggy, tended to disintegrate and all too often caused inflammation of the baby's bikini area. Not surprisingly, nanny blamed any urinary tract infection from which her charge suffered on their use. She may well have been right, for a recent study published in

MEDICAL TALKBACK

On their feet

Suzanne R. Damazer, Leaside Crescent, London, NW11

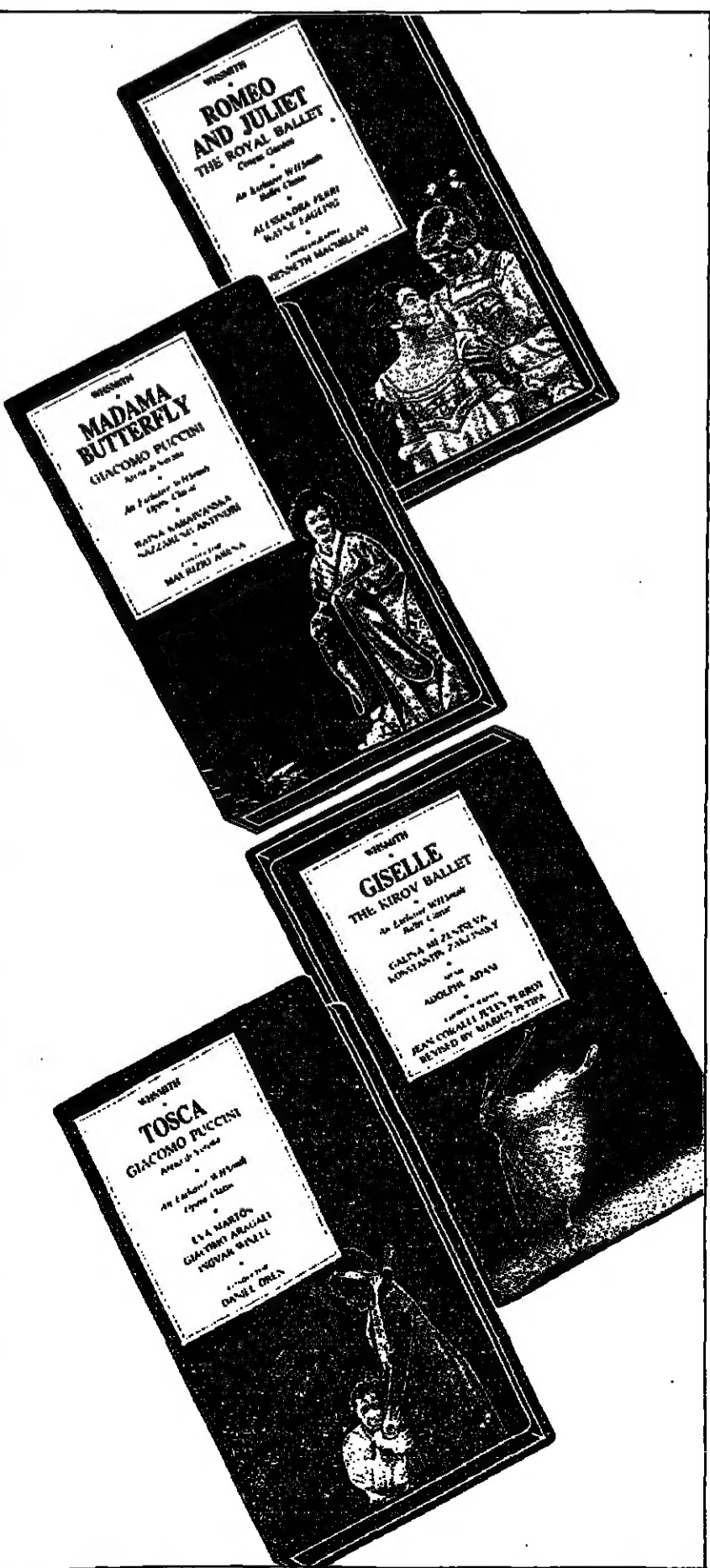
I read with interest and amazement the article by Jane Soames ("Better a toe you know", *Second Opinion*, July 28). I, too, suffered with large bunions for many years. They were constantly inflamed and turned into wounds which I bandaged every morning.

After having been told by various orthopaedic specialists to "go home and forget all about it", I found a consultant surgeon at a London hospital who was willing to operate. I was 53 years old, considerably overweight and had both feet done at the same time — not the easiest circumstances on which to act.

and one week later I was driving. This was four years ago. I have not had any discomfort or pain and can walk for as many hours and miles as I choose. I can wear whatever shoes I like and I am not "aware" of my feet. Even the scars have become invisible. It was the best thing I have ever done. Jane Soames has all my sympathy.

Elizabeth Benson, Lindsey Crescent, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

I was interested to read Jane Soames's tale of woe about bunion removal. I also suffered this condition from an early age, and my GP and I eventually decided that the only answer was surgery. Having that operation was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The afflicted bones were broken and reset, and miraculously I suffered no pain. Ten years on, my feet are still comfortable. I would say to anyone with painful bunions, have them removed, but if you do not want plastic implants, say so. There are simpler methods.



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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

A novelist who shall be nameless — certainly if posterity has any sense — got so far up my nose on Monday that, respiratory physiology being, the convoluted item is, I now have to get him off my chest.

Some four weeks ago, I wrote him a brief business note. A fortnight later, I received in reply five pages of literary exotica, so pretentiously florid that I had to spend half an hour dead-battering metaphors before I could determine what he was actually saying. What, though, stubbornly remained beyond determining was why quite so much time and energy should have been devoted to a thousand arcane polysyllables for which he was not being paid. That is not this fellow's way. Indeed, it is widely rumoured that, when approached by commissioning editors, he not only specifies his cost per word, he also enquires how many commas will be required. @ £3.95 a dozen.

This minor mystery was finally solved on Bank Holiday Monday, when I bumped into him in the ferris wheel queue on Hampstead Heath and was thus forced, willy-nilly, to compliment him upon his turgid epistolary dross. He nodded, smugly.

"The apple has changed my life," he said. It might have been Adam speaking, had he not gone on to explain that the Apple in question was his new word processor which automatically stored everything he wrote before printing it out. This meant he could now keep all his private correspondence. Which in turn meant that it was not private correspondence any more, it was *The Collected Letters of Shabby Nameless*, composed and edited for hardback publication.

This is a bad business. If it catches on, nobody will write an honest letter ever again. Authors, particularly, will be unable to hang off a complaining blaise to their laundry without slipping in a paragraph on Negative Capability, a pithy shaft or two summing up contemporary mores, a feeble literary joke, a slug of scurrilous gossip, a note anent their *Work in Progress* for future biographers, and a couple of resonant quotes from *Marcus Aurelius*. Speaking as one who had rejoiced in the fact that the telephone had killed the art of letter-writing, I find the threat of its computer-enhanced return really rather horrible.

I have nothing else to report from Hampstead Heath Fair, except that there were eight ice-cream booths, none of which offered any flavour but crypto-vanilla. Nor do they use scoops any more — the stuff, which has the consistency of shaving foam, is extruded from the alloy recum of a large hopper and, if there is a breeze, blows off your cone before you can get your tongue out.

Oh yes, and a gypsy lifted a fiver for telling me that I was either a barrister or a doctor with a scar on his knee. I rolled both trouser legs up, but she wouldn't give me my money back.

BARRY FANTONI



'As soon as the strike's over I'm sending the postal union a thank you card.'

Our premises have become a GCSE clearing-house. We are the St Trinian's telephone exchange. Ever since the results were despatched last Thursday, hysterical teenage girls have been ringing up at all hours of the day and night to compare trauma with my daughter. Many of them call from those unpronounceable spots on the other side of the globe to which the middle classes have been driven in their search for original holidays to video, and, if Victoria is out, shriek their numbers at me so that she can call them back at little more than a quid a minute for an hour's commiseration.

At 3 am on Tuesday, I was booted from sleep by a child in Fiji, where it was 3 pm, but since she rang to sob that she had been given an E in Geography I felt uneasy about coming down too heavily on her ignorance of the time lag. She may well think that Crickwood is a Solomon Island. I explained that I preferred not to wake my daughter, but when this was greeted from 12,000 miles away by the unmistakable noise of a tantrum being thrown with great force, I asked, albeit tearfully, if I could help. Did I, she faltered through the static, know anything about the rumour that the Geography GCSE exam had been an administrative cock-up, that there would be re-assessments, re-takes, drumhead courts, Rumbold, and so forth? I croaked that some kind of post mortem was supposed to be in the ministerial pipeline, soothed as best I could, and mindful that a fellow-parent half a world away was footing a bill likely to put Fijian Telecom on an even keel for the rest of the century, rang off.

A odd business, all round. Given that its advertised purpose was to introduce a fairer, broader-based, less intensive and hence generally more relaxed form of assessment, GCSE seems to have plunged childhood back into the cut-throat days when education was about nothing more than success or failure. Furthermore, it has generated a national anxiety both in and for our children not seen since parents were required to hang gas-mask cases round their necks and wave them off to rural fosterhood.

Whom shall we blame? Do you know, I rather suspect that it could be something to do with the Prime Minister. Wait for a rash of spring books with titles like *Casualties of Achievement*, *The Meritocratic Downside*, and *The Age of the Swot*.

Mr Lawson has tried to dismiss alarmism about the balance of payments by claiming that the deficit will be easy to finance. He has suggested that there is a resemblance between Britain's large current account imbalance and the issue of long-term equity capital by a successful private company to support continued expansion. A better comparison is with a property developer financing his latest speculation with short-term bank loans. The Chancellor's complacency about the balance of payments is unjustified and risky.

The essential facts are easy to check and should not be in dispute. The Central Statistical Office publishes quarterly data on capital flows between Britain and the rest of the world. Although the figures have many shortcomings, stable long-term investments can be distinguished from volatile short-term currency swings. The most important long-term capital movement comes under the heading of "direct investment", which indicates changes in the direct ownership of tangible, solid things like factories and buildings. The official figures show that Britain is not now, and in recent years has not been, a net recipient of this kind of investment from abroad.

Tim Congdon warns of the dangers in Britain's balance of payments deficit

Hot money, cold comfort

From 1985 to 1987, the early years of the boom so much celebrated by Mr Lawson, Britain's direct investment overseas totalled £35.9 billion, and foreign direct investment in the UK — £14.2 billion; there was a net outflow of more than £20 billion. In the three quarters to the first quarter of 1988, when the boom reached a peak, the net outflow was more than £5 billion.

Clearly on this part of the balance of payments, Britain has been less favoured by foreign investors than British investors have favoured the rest of the world. Direct investment requires stronger and more permanent commitment than any other category of international financial flow; it is also the most difficult to reverse. There is no evidence here that Britain's situation is like that of a company issuing equity capital. It would be easier to argue the

opposite and to claim that throughout the Lawson boom Britain has maintained its traditional status as a significant exporter of long-term capital. But the balance of payments must balance. Over the last year, not only have direct investment flows been adverse, but the current account has been in the red and the official foreign exchange reserves have increased sharply. How have these items, which together exceed £20 billion, been financed? What pluses in other parts of the balance of payments match all the minuses?

There have been two main sources of financing. First, foreigners have been heavier portfolio investors in Britain than British residents have been in other countries. Since mid-1987 the surplus on this part of the balance of payments, which represents purchases and sales of financial instruments, has prob-

ably been more than £10 billion. Second, banks have raised money from foreign sources and lent it to people and companies in this country. According to the Bank of England's statistics, these inflows via the banking system have exceeded £10 billion over the last year.

It is important to understand what is happening. When foreigners buy British financial instruments (such as shares on the London Stock Exchange), they are acquiring assets which they can sell at some future date, even if the original intention was to keep them for many years. The whole point of portfolio investment is that it can be unwound quickly and without fuss. Similarly, inflows via the banking system can rapidly become outflows. Foreigners who are happy to hold sterling one day may prefer deutschemarks or dollars the next.

Portfolio investment and in-

flows via the banking system are therefore quite unlike direct investment. Whereas investors in shares, government securities and bank deposits can redispense their holdings at a moment's notice, companies who have committed themselves to building new factories and warehouses usually have to stick to their decisions for several years; and, whereas the inflows into Britain in recent quarters could be reversed with little warning, most outflows would continue for many months even if British companies changed their minds about the ultimate value of the overseas investments.

The vulnerability of Britain's balance of payments, and the sterling exchange rate, to a change in international sentiment is obvious. If the estimate that portfolio inflows and inflows via the banking system have been over £20 billion in the last year is correct, these

favourable short-term elements in the balance of payments have amounted to about 5 per cent of gross domestic product. The scale of recent capital movements, and the severity of the adjustment problem if the inflows were to stop, is without precedent in peacetime.

It is no exaggeration to say that Britain's economy has become dependent on continued inflows of hot money. The funds have been attracted here by high interest rates and the image of economic success associated with the Thatcher Government. The latest trade figures, suggesting that the current account deficit could approach 4 per cent of GDP have begun to tarnish that image. If yet higher interest rates prove necessary to keep hot money in Britain, the subsequent inevitable slowdown in the economy would raise further questions about the durability of the UK's "growth miracle".

Of course, the Government could allow the exchange rate to fall if hot money inflows became hot money outflows. That might sustain economic growth for a time, but the result would be an acceleration in inflation which would be far retribution for the credit and monetary excesses of the last three years.

Paul Vallely

Sudan's war harvest of famine

Suddenly we have another famine in Sudan. Tens of thousands of destitute people are on the move. Hundreds are dying every day. Aid workers report that migrants are literally crawling into refugee centres where the levels of malnutrition and percentage of those dying every week are the worst ever recorded anywhere in the world — higher even than those in Korea in Ethiopia in 1984.

There is, in fact, nothing in the least sudden about the sad situation in the south of Sudan. News, however, is where reporters are and those members of the international press in Khartoum to cover the floods which made a million people homeless last month have now turned their attention to the south of the country where, for five years, the civil war — which is perhaps the world's most vicious — has been raging largely unnoticed.

It is a war in which, directly or indirectly, as many as three million people are threatened with death and where the worst may yet be some way off.

The world finds it difficult to cope with more than one catastrophe at a time. Sudan had its turn in 1985 when, not long after the great famine in Ethiopia, millions were reported to be without food in the western provinces of the country.

The international spotlight lingered for a few months and brought enough Western aid to enable the remarkably resilient desert farmers and nomads to avoid a massive tragedy. But then Sudan was supplanted in the international consciousness by some other horror. Throughout, the situation in the south went largely unnoticed.

In itself that was unsurprising. The south of Sudan, with its huge acreages of dense low jungle and vast tracts of swamp where the Nile flattens out and splits into a gigantic inland delta, is one of the most inaccessible regions in Africa — most especially when the formidable terrain is inhabited by both anti-government guerrillas and tribes which still persecute centuries old feuds.

Although it is potentially one of the most prosperous regions of the continent — fertile and rich in oil, minerals and hydro-electric potential — it is also one of the most undeveloped. News



Sudan faces terrible famine again, and with it the despair and hopelessness that shows in this starving child, and father and son.

filters out little and late. Enmity between the north and south in Sudan is not new. The south, populated largely by black Christians and animists, has long resented the tutelage of the Arab Muslims who control Khartoum and the cotton-producing lands between the Blue and White Niles.

In 1983 President Nimeiry rejuvenated the old resentments when he introduced Islam's *sharia* law and divided the south into three provinces in an attempt to divide and rule. Two years ago both adopted the tactic of passing large quantities of arms to local tribal groups. The government armed the Mundari, the Baggara and the Mesariyah peoples — all of them traditional enemies of the Dinka. The SPLA passed arms among other tribes, including the Toposa. The intention of each was to start a parallel, proxy war which would destroy the morale and economic base of their opponents in the region.

As a result the south has been thrown into chaos. Small scale

inter-tribal cattle raiding, once conducted with machetes and obsolete rifles, is now perpetrated on a dramatic scale using sub-machine guns and even bazookas. Entire villages are wiped out in the process.

In some areas the slaughter of Dinkas has taken on proportions which lead to claims of attempted genocide. Large areas of crops have been burned and more than a million cattle killed. The population of the south has fled. In Khartoum more than half of the estimated two million displaced people who live in the 48 shanty towns which sprawl across the city's rubbish dumps are said to be southerners. More than 300,000 Dinka men have fled to Ethiopia, some to join the SPLA, others because it is the safest environment for the remnants of their herds.

Around a quarter-of-a-million people are displaced within the south. Now another 100,000, mainly women, the elderly and children, have moved into the western regions of Kordofan and

Darfour where they are squatting in makeshift camps along the Bahar-el-Arab waterway which divides the provinces and along the railway line to Khartoum.

"They arrive in a terrible state, with bones sticking out everywhere. They have nothing. In some cases they have even had their children taken as slaves by Arab raiders," according to John McGrath of Oxfam. In some of these camps more than 250 people are dying every day, according to the agency, which has tried to truck the fugitives to safer land further north and provide shelter, food and water there.

Now in the rainy season the river is impassable. But aid workers are attempting to make preparations for a new influx once the river can be boarded.

"God knows what the state of these people will be," said the Save the Children Fund's Africa co-ordinator, Andrew Timpon. "The longer it goes on the more desperate people are before they begin these long journeys which

can mean six to eight weeks walking."

The agencies are finding it hard to cope. The natural obstacles are intimidating as are the problems caused by Sudan's collapsed economy — its national debt is \$12 billion and the interest repayments alone are far more than the country's total earnings. What little grain there is in the area is being hoarded by merchants who hope for an extortionate price when the new influx arrives.

In addition, though no aid worker will say so publicly, they face intransigence from the government which sees no political mileage in helping southerners involved in a war which is costing the bankrupt country \$½ million a day. Instead it has in the past actually expelled agencies which it accused of discriminating in favour of southerners. But by and large it prefers to concentrate on politics in Khartoum, where the Prime Minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi, after the collapse of his coalition administration, has decided to involve Islamic fundamentalists in government. Their insistence on the reactivation of *sharia* can only worsen relations with the south.

What is particularly frustrating for the relief agencies is that they have been issuing admonitions for more than two years on the consequences of this economic and social disintegration. In June 1986 Oxfam said that malnutrition rates were already as high as those in Ethiopia and warned the international community that unless pressure was exerted to secure a peace settlement between two and three million people could starve to death.

Last year the Irish agency Concern launched an appeal for the southerners, who were arriving in Khartoum by train. Many perished on the long journey. Six actually died at Khartoum station after the effort of alighting.

The West, perhaps recalling some of the excesses of Arab mercantilism and bureaucracy during the relief operation in 1985, was as slow to respond in cash donations as it had been to exert political pressure on the two sides.

Suddenly we have another famine in Sudan.

Commentary • JOHN SPENCER

Unreasonable defence

After the shooting on Tuesday night of three men admitted by the IRA to have been "on active service", the question arises as to whether the security forces act lawfully in shooting terrorists, or whether they are committing murder. People generally assume that to answer this question we only need to know the facts. But nobody has much idea what the law permits in this situation. These incidents take place in what amounts almost to a legal vacuum.

The common law permits a citizen to use reasonable force to defend his person and his property and the Criminal Law Act 1967 permits him to use "such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large."

It is clear from this that there is no room for pre-planned killings. It may be, however, that a planned killing would be deemed permissible if it was the only way to prevent a crime which was known about in advance.

The law also makes it clear that the force used must be "reasonable". The question is what amounts to "reasonable force". From recent court decisions we now know that the situation must be judged as it appeared to the person committing the action. If he genuinely thought the man he killed was pointing a pistol at him, the

question is what force it is reasonable to use against a man armed with a pistol. The fact that he had only a pea shooter is irrelevant. But from here on things become obscure.

In English law, what degree of force it is reasonable to use in any given situation is treated as a matter of fact which it is left to the jury to decide. The outcome of each case depends therefore on the values of the particular jury that is trying the particular case. If the terrorist-slayer is tried by 12 good hawks he is acquitted; if by 12 good doves and true, he is in trouble.

The climate in the UK today, after a series of successes for IRA terrorism, suggests that a jury would have more sympathy for security forces in Northern Ireland than for other people who might claim "reasonable force" as a defence.

Opinions seem to be divided on what force it is reasonable to use in arresting an escaping criminal. If the only way you can stop an escaping bank robber is to shoot him down, is this "such force as is reasonable in the circumstances of the case"? If not, would it be if it was a terrorist, thought likely to come back another day with a bigger and better bomb?

If a farmer wants to know if he can shoot a dog which is escaping after worrying his livestock, the answer is clear. The *Animals Act* says he may. But if a soldier or policeman wants to know if he can shoot a terrorist to stop him running away after

planting a bomb, the answer must be "I don't know — do it and see if the jury acquits you or convicts you?"

The soldier's position is particularly difficult because if he shoots and the terrorist dies, the offence he is guilty of — if the jury does not regard his use of force as reasonable — is murder. The mandatory sentence for murder is life imprisonment. There is no possibility of giving him a sentence which takes account of the difficult position in which he found himself.

This is harsh on someone who uses a degree of force which, in the heat of the moment, he thought was reasonable in the situation as he saw it, but which the jury later thinks was unreasonable.

In cases of self defence, the judges help by telling juries that if a person in a tight corner did what he reasonably and honestly thought was necessary, this is "evidence that only reasonable defensive action had been taken". But when the case involves force in preventing crimes or making arrests, the Criminal Law Act makes it clear beyond fudging that the question is what was reasonable, not what the defendant thought was reasonable.

Two things are wrong with the law on public and private defence. First, it is too vague. Among the questions it leaves open is whether it is ever reasonable to use extreme force to stop a fleeing criminal who is not about to commit a crime

now, but who has committed one in the past and is likely to commit one again?

In the second place it is too harsh. It is surely wrong that where a person uses more than reasonable force in public or private defence and kills he should be liable to a mandatory life sentence. He is morally poles apart from the criminal who deliberately shoots the policeman dead when escaping from a bank robbery, and it is outrageous that the law treats him the same. Like the person who kills under provocation, he should be guilty of manslaughter only, and subject to a discretionary sentence.

But would this not encourage overbearing police tactics and be a threat to civil liberties? Probably not. Because our existing law is harsh, juries generally refuse to convict policemen or soldiers who have killed by using unreasonable force for lawful objects of any offence at all.

The only case I know of where one was actually convicted was Private Thain and this, significantly, was in Northern Ireland before a court consisting of a judge alone (even more significantly, he was released after serving only 26 months). If juries had the option of convicting of something less than murder the courts would have a greater chance of making sure that the police and the military keep within the limits of reasonable force — whatever those may be. The author is tutor in law at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

SEPT 1

ON THIS DAY

1915



In peace time, the proprietor of street pianos hired out some 30 machines a day for up to two shillings (10p) a time.

VANISHED STREET MUSICIANS

There is sorrow among the children of the back streets. The man with the barrel-organ has disappeared, and the youngsters whose feet are itching to dance and caper to his music look for him in vain.

Week after week they used to hear him long before he reached their street and ran to meet him as he moved their way. They have come to adore every inch of the dingy brown organ with the decayed mirror and the gaudy panels. They loved the dark-skinned, shock-headed Sicilian who trundled it along. They knew that he was not the brigand he looked. Had he not sometimes granted them the rare and precious privilege of turning the handle and drawing forth the music of the cylinders? Best of all, they worshipped the monkey which held out its skinny fingers for their coppers and made an elastic purse of its mouth. Had they not often fed the ugly little creature with scraps of bread and the cores of apples? Now "all, all are gone, the old familiar faces, and the children miss them sorely."

One by one the wandering purveyors of "cheerful noises" have vanished from the streets of London. The German band which used to blare the "Blue Danube" from the street corner was the first to go. The bandsmen have laid down the saxhorn and taken up the rifle; one form

of "frightfulness" has eclipsed another.

These were the *filles* of the street musicians. At the other end of the scale was the wretched fellow who laboured mournful tunes out of a tin whistle. He, too, has gone. The one-man orchestra, that amazing pluralist who contrived to play half a dozen instruments at once, is heard no more. The corner-player is no longer found on the kerbside outside a public house, tearing the air with his brazen blasts. Here and there a decrepit old man is still to be seen squatting on the pavement, grinding weird and doleful noises out of an asthmatic hurdy-gurdy.

A year ago there were 400 street pianos pouring their strident notes upon the ears of London. Where are they now? If you would have an answer, walk along Great Bath-street or Little Bath-street, or any of the ill-named, ill-paved, and ill-kept streets which lie between Gray's Inn-road and Farringdon-road. Here, in the jumble of narrow courts and alleys known as Little Italy, you will find the home of the ice-cream merchant and the street-piano proprietor. Turn into the dirtiest street you come to, where tattered washing hangs on a cart-tail and chickens are pecking at the garbage in the gutter. Over a gateway you will see an Italian name and the words "piano-organ manufacturer."

Behind the gate you will find the missing street-pianos, packed tightly together in rows like motor-cars in a garage. Some of the pianos still stand upon their barrows; the barrows of some are piled on top of the pianos. Many of them are empty shells; their inner works lie rusting in a heap in the corner. All is desolation and decay.



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WELL MET IN WARSAW

Since the winter of 1981 when Mr Lech Walesa was arrested and confined to a hunting lodge, the Solidarity leader has been officially depicted as a clown, an irrelevance, a puppet of the West and above all a "private citizen". But the zeal with which these denunciations have been made suggests the opposite: that the Warsaw Government regards Mr Walesa, a Nobel Peace Laureate, as part (albeit a small part) of a future solution.

His meeting yesterday with the Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, is an important step towards soothing the Polish crisis. The talks about talks cannot undo the seven wasted years since martial law. But the meeting, and future negotiations, can provide a framework for managed change.

So far, the Government has too narrow an agenda. It promises further democratization within the officially sponsored union movement. That means apparently allowing different groups a critical voice but making them subordinate to the official union structure. The current head of the official union movement is a member of the Communist Politburo.

The Government is also willing to allow more independent deputies in the Polish Parliament, perhaps even a loose opposition with close ties to the Catholic church. It also seeks a Council of National Conciliation in which Solidarity advisers could participate.

Solidarity's aims are wider: it wants above all to be a legal entity again. It sees no place for itself within the present union framework. It wants the Government to commit itself more fully to socio-political pluralism. That means more political clubs, more independent newspapers, factory managers who can operate freely without party interference, more outlets for criticism.

A legalized Solidarity only makes sense if it is given the opportunity to participate in decision-making at many different levels. Rather than another spurious government-sponsored "council", Solidarity wants an anti-crisis pact, a coalition of the party, Solidarity, church and independent advisers that can ease the country through its problems.

Solidarity has already indicated that it would accept the 1982 trade union Act as a basis for

negotiations. That is important. The Act severely restricts strikes, which are defined as a measure of the very last resort. But there is also a provision for union pluralism that the Government has never honoured.

There is scope here for an agreement and it is to be hoped that the Poles, the leaders and the led, seize the day. The pitfalls, however, are many.

Solidarity itself has to learn to play by the rules. If it is to be credible it must show itself capable of ending wildcat strikes. Its power must not only be to call a strike but to ensure the orderly return of the workforce once concessions have been won.

Mr Walesa no longer is the head of a structured nine-million member organization. The fresh-faced strikers in Silesia and on the Baltic were barely 12 years old when he first jumped over the Lenin shipyard fence in 1980. It is not clear that he is in touch with their needs.

The Roman Catholic church in Poland is not keen to become politically involved. The Gorbachov openings in the Soviet Union are seen by the Vatican as offering possibilities of real progress in Ostpolitik, real concessions for beleaguered believers. In order not to jeopardize this, the Church's political aims in Poland are modest: to preserve the unity of the Poles and to encourage sensible reform that will raise living standards.

Finally, the Polish Government is weaker than at any time in the past three years. The repeated strikes this year have isolated General Jaruzelski within the party. Moscow is watching Warsaw with even more than usual care. Mr Gorbachov generously praised him during his visit to Poland last July, but if General Jaruzelski cannot win over the workers to economic reform, then there is an unpleasant message for Soviet reformers.

The General is not a salesman. He is a loyal soldier and a mediocre politician who made the fatal error of imposing martial law and thereby sacrificing the trust of his people. Now he has a chance, possibly his last, to win back that trust. He should take it and make a sensible contract with the Polish workers.

ALLIES IN PEACE

The peace talks between Iran and Iraq have stalled already. Given that far more is involved than simply separating the two armies, that was to be expected. A long-standing frontier dispute has to be resolved — over the Shatt-al-Arab waterway — the issue which was largely responsible for starting the war — and the fate of both sides' "auxiliary forces" has to be decided.

The Shatt-al-Arab issue is probably of the greatest concern to both sides because so much national prestige is bound up with it. But a compromise will probably be achieved in the end. The future of the two sides' local allies is more difficult.

The Iraqis have enlisted the aid of the Iranian Mujahidin, an alliance of armed opposition groups whom they have been using to try to undermine the clerical regime in Tehran. They have won limited victories in the field, but most Iraqis regard them as traitors. They could, albeit with difficulty, join the already large Iranian emigration.

Iran's principal helpers present a more painful problem, for they constitute a whole national group. These are the Kurds of Iraq. With the retreat of the Iranian forces in northern Iraq, some 3 million people are now exposed to the full weight of Iraqi reprisal.

There is ample evidence that the Iraqi tactics being used to bring the Kurds to heel include the use of poison gas — the first time that poison gas has been used as an instrument of domestic repression. Tens of thousands are on the move towards Turkey. Other Kurds are trying to trek over the mountains towards Iran.

Turkey has placed restrictions on the number of refugees it will allow across the border. It is fighting a low level war of its own against guerrillas from its own 9 million strong Kurdish minority. The very mention of them in public is illegal in Turkey — they have to be called "Mountain Turks".

If the Kurds of Iraq are slaughtered while the world stands by, Turkey's Kurds may not remain quiet, with consequent problems for Turkey's internal security and stability. The

Kurds are a strong Iranian bargaining counter in the negotiations with Iraq. But they are a counter that Iran would probably be prepared to sacrifice, especially as its Army in the north no longer seems in a position to help them. Iran has its own problems with its Kurdish minority and is therefore very unlikely to ask for a place for the Kurds at the negotiating table.

The UN Secretary-General has also refused to give official attention to their plight, arguing that it is not the business of the peace conference. This is understandable — it has taken enough effort to get Iran and Iraq to talk to each other without introducing an issue that could wreck the incipient dialogue.

Nevertheless, any attempt to disregard an entire people is liable to store up trouble for the future. European peace treaties over the past century have disregarded the interests of various minorities — the Hungarians of Transylvania are but one example — only to have the problem explode in the face of later generations.

The Iraqi Government may well think that the Kurds will soon be incapable of organized resistance. Its strategy, as documented by Amnesty International, is a mixture of terror, the annihilation of Kurdish elites, and the forcible resettlement of the Kurds in Arab majority areas of southern Iraq.

In the Gulf peace talks, the United Nations has an opportunity to be more than a broker between different powers. Its mandate as peacemaker is supposed to embody certain humane ideals and objectives.

The West could make clear that the international co-operation Saddam Hussein may hope to obtain for reconstruction will depend not just on responsible international behaviour, but also on a measure of humanity at home. No less should be expected of Iran. There is still some moral responsibility of the international community to prevent crimes which the states concerned claim are "internal matters".

DEATH IN THE CHANNEL

About 3,800 attempts have been made to swim the English Channel since Captain Webb first did so 113 years ago. More than 330 individuals have succeeded, some of them more than once — and one of them 31 times.

Many have also failed. Three of them have died in the attempt — but none in more disturbing circumstances than Renato Agondi, the first full account of whose death appears in *The Times* today.

Miss Agondi, aged 25, lost her battle with the elements last week when she was only three miles short of the French coast. As is usual, she was accompanied by a boat in which were the captain, her trainer, and an official of the Channel Swimming Association. The question at issue is the extent to which these should bear any responsibility for her death. So far only her Brazilian trainer, Ms Judith Russo, has been charged by the French police — with "failing to assist a person in danger".

There is nothing to prevent anyone from trying to swim the Channel. The first of those who died was a man who, 30 years ago, set out against all advice, towing a raft with his supplies on board, tied to his feet. His body was later washed up on the Continent.

But those who wish to have their crossing authenticated have to be approved by the Channel Swimming Association (CSA) which demands to see a medical certificate first. A representative of the CSA was on board the boat accompanying Ms Agondi. But his responsibility, it may be argued, was only to ensure that the rules were adhered to.

During the last three miles of Ms Agondi's fatal marathon, the boat's captain Mr Colin

Cook, experienced in supporting Channel swimmers, tried repeatedly to persuade Ms Russo to end her charge's attempt and call the girl on board. His advice, it appears, was not heeded.

The captain of any ship is held responsible for the safety of that vessel and of those who sail in it. This has been codified by the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act. But does that responsibility extend to someone who is swimming alongside, of his or her own free will and who has never actually been on board the vessel? That is legally not clear, it seems.

He also has a duty to go to the assistance of any other seafarer in trouble. But whether this obligation too is relevant in this case is very questionable. Although she seemed to be in difficulties, Ms Agondi herself did not appeal for help or try to abort the swim. Moreover, the boat had been chartered by Ms Russo, as she continually reminded the captain.

Despite its physical and mental demands, Channel swimming must rank among the safer adventure sports. Properly conducted under the auspices of the CSA, it ensures the swimmer a support system of the kind which mountaineers and Atlantic yachtsmen must envy. No doubt this is why so few have lost their lives over the years.

This serves only to underline the tragedy in this case. Ms Agondi died when help was almost literally at hand and when four people were there to monitor her condition. There must be a limit to the rules one can impose upon an endurance test of this kind. But a clearer chain of command would seem the least that one must expect.

A helping hand for Burundi

From the Ambassador of Belgium
Sir, Your editorial, "Aiding mass murderers" (August 27), suggests that Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the European Commission should stop subsidising "a Burundi state budget from which so much is spent on armoured vehicles and military helicopters for the purpose of murdering suppressing the majority of the population".

May I point out that after the 1972 massacres the Belgian Government, indeed, withdrew its entire military co-operation and reduced its civil aid to a few projects of technical assistance in medicine, agriculture and education. We were, however, promptly replaced in the military assistance field by the Soviet Union.

The tragedy of the recent massacres is that they erupted a year after the takeover by a new and moderate government in Bujumbura which had succeeded in convincing the United Nations of its respect for human rights and had obtained from Brussels a new civil aid package.

Two immediate courses of action seem to be open now for Western countries: assist the Government of Rwanda in giving shelter to the refugees and assist the Government of Burundi in creating the necessary preconditions for a return of the 47,000 refugees. The Government of Belgium is, presently, giving its contribution to both.

To suggest that stoppage of aid to Burundi would not harm the population because the bulk of the population "appears already about as badly off as it is possible to be" is not borne out by the latest figures published in the World Bank's Development Yearbook, which estimates the Burundi GDP per head in 1986 at \$240 US, which may be compared to \$250 US for neighbouring Tanzania, one of the most assisted countries in Africa.

The northern neighbour, Rwanda, which was also administered by Belgium and which is generously helped by Western countries, has reached a figure of \$290, only \$10 short of the figure of richly-endowed Kenya, which stood at \$300 in 1986.

Rwanda and Burundi are tremendously over-populated, have no basic resources except coffee, but they have enjoyed good economic management and deserve well-chosen forms of assistance.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. van BELLINGHEN,
Belgian Embassy,
103 Eaton Square, SW1.
August 30.

Post Office strike

From Mr Peter Clarke
Sir, The Post Office workers' strike is alarming for many enterprises and verging on all of us. The fact that it was induced by the Post Office offering more money to its staff adds to the risible history of this antique monopoly.

If Lord Young would simply amend the price threshold that defines commercial mail from its previous £1 to, say, 10 pence, news of a postal strike would be of marginal interest. If alternative mail carriers were permitted to trade, the perennial threat of tantrums from postmen would not be the menace it is.

Lord Young should relax the monopoly. Just because this socialist system came to us from Charles I instead of Herbert Morrison is no reason it should be immune from criticism.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CLARKE,
Kirkton House, Kirkton Manor,
Peebles, Edinburgh,
August 30.

Interest rates

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, Harold Macmillan's sad prophecies of doom are in danger of being fulfilled, mainly because of grossly excessive interest rates. The chairman of Jaguar, the CBI, and the TUC have complained that these rates undermine exports. Exports on credit are virtually at an end because buyers will not pay exorbitant rates. Moreover, the uncertainty about sterling makes it difficult to settle prices.

In such a climate the patriotism of a "Buy British" campaign seems out of place, yet there is a plethora of foreign goods as well as cars. Nearly 40 years ago the cry was, "Export or die". The message will recur. The sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
50 Homefield Road, Chiswick, W4.
August 27.

Moscow's failings

From Lord Chelwood
Sir, Neither of two excellent articles (Nicholas Bethell's on Mrs Thatcher's timely visit to Poland on August 29, and David Hart's on "Gorbachov's unequal treaties", August 30) directly mentioned the Brezhnev Doctrine, which was in no way endorsed in the Helsinki Agreement.

It is Moscow's failure to abandon this threat to the formerly independent countries in Europe, coupled with its refusal to reduce its overwhelming conventional military strength vis-à-vis Nato, that makes one wonder whether we are being conned.

Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
Plovers Meadow, Blackboys,
Uckfield, East Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tightening the screws on the IRA

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)
Sir, David Owen is quite right to raise again the question of a joint security commission in Northern Ireland (your feature page, August 26).

What has happened to this idea? Those of us who sat on the Kilbrandon committee — which preceded the Anglo-Irish Accord and recommended something broadly on the lines of what eventually emerged — were convinced that the cornerstone of a successful agreement was the development of the most intimate, detailed, and organised co-operation between the two police forces and the two military authorities on either side of the border.

Yet where are the joint patrols, or combined border-sealing operations, the daily information exchanges and co-ordinated operational planning systems, or the repeated joint search-and-comb operations which would finally eliminate the role of the republic's border counties as boltholes for the killers?

It has always been my belief that Dublin both held the key to the IRA's defeat and stood in the greatest danger if the IRA prospered.

It is high time that these two considerations were drawn to the attention of the Irish Government with renewed insistence and vigour, and backed by renewed pressures (of which there are several available).

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons,
August 27.

From Mr Herb Greer
Sir, Dr Owen's argument for the sealing of the Irish border is interesting, but dubious. As one example he refers to the French Government, probably meaning its attempt to close the Algerian frontier during that war.

In fact, the Ligne Morice — an impressive barricade of electrified barbed wire, mines, towers and patrols — was only partly effective. Even with a free-fire zone on both sides of the line, Arab guerrillas could — as they did with me — take journalists up to examine the barrier at leisure, and small groups were able to penetrate the line regularly, albeit with some losses.

As we have seen in Ulster, small groups can inflict damage and casualties, and achieve publicity, out of all proportion to their size.

This history of Irish "troubles"

Czech philosopher

From Mr Andrew Dakyns
Sir, Your leader (August 25) suggests that the dissident Czech philosopher, Dr Julius Tomin, is being rather silly in saying he would rather sweep the streets of Oxford than dull his mind for his real work by taking a job that is intellectual, but not philosophy.

Yet is Dr Tomin being so unreasonable? Surely the precedent of Spinoza — earning his living as a grinder of lenses for optical instruments — springs more readily to mind in this connection than the examples you quote of Diogenes in his barrel or Heraclitus living off grass and dying on the fabled dung-hill.

By all accounts, Dr Tomin is no scrounger: he has lived very frugally and single-mindedly for his chosen line of work ever since he came to this country eight years ago — at the invitation of prominent academics in Oxford. It was not his fault that the Czech authorities then prevented him from returning home by stripping him of his citizenship.

The philosopher's chief sin is that he has outstayed his welcome in Oxford as far as his erstwhile hosts are concerned. They were content enough to make considerable play with his name a few years back — in the name of boldly and nobly defending academic

suggests that a more effective option would be co-operative internment on both sides of the border. The political rationale for Southern co-operation is clear enough: the Marxist terrorists of the IRA mean to take over the whole of Ireland, and are a greater menace to Eire than they are to the United Kingdom.

Some in the South are aware of this threat, but the stupid and obsolete irredentism which fuels American groups like NORAID still has enough influence in the South of Ireland to make agreement on internment problematic. It is, nevertheless, a goal worth pursuing with some energy.

Yours,
HERB GREER,
124 Fog Lane, Didsbury
Manchester 20,
August 26.

From the Director, Church Society
Sir, Three years ago Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Ireland's Roman Catholic Primate, in an interview with *The Universe*, declared that 90 per cent of the religious bigotry in Ulster was to be found among Protestants. "They [the IRA] are killing many members of the RUC, UDR, and so on... but they are killing them because they are members of the security forces, not because they are Protestants".

The recent wave of killings of British servicemen must be set against this background.

In the same interview the cardinal called for British withdrawal from Northern Ireland and predicted that violence would continue until the political system was modified.

The Roman Catholic leadership in Ireland has much to answer for in respect of the troubles in Northern Ireland and it should be very clear to the British Government that there can be small hopes of peace, or of detaching the Roman Catholic community from the IRA which is the precondition of peace, until that leadership changes its stance.

There is little doubt that had it the will to communicate the members of the IRA the killing would stop immediately. It refuses to do so because it also wants to see Ulster abandoned by Britain and absorbed into a united Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAMUEL, Director,
Church Society,
Whitefield House,
186 Kennington Park Road, SE11.
August 31.

freedom — and thereby win kudos for themselves; but when the man himself arrives on their doorstep and has the temerity to stay there (worse still, to question accepted wisdom on Socrates and Plato), then it really is too much. Let him be punished by having to forfeit his £67-a-week supplementary benefit, since that might drive him away from Oxford, the cry seems to be.

Fortunately, there are at Oxford — even in philosophy circles — those who think and act differently. I understand that the Wykeham Professor of Logic, Professor Michael Dummett, has written a letter supporting Dr Tomin's appeal against the DHSS decision to stop his weekly benefit. I believe that most fair-minded people will wish to see that appeal succeed.

Yours etc.,
ANDREW DAKYNS,
18 Lambbridge Wood Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
August 29.

From Mr P. M. Burrows
Sir, Dr Tomin should remember his Menander: "We live, not as we wish, but as we can".

From one who dwindled from university to school-teaching, mostly happily,
P. M. BURROWS,
41 Harrison Close,
Reigate, Surrey.

It is still full, as there are not enough places available in the city for children who need to go into care.

From the council's advertisement, "There's nowhere more upwardly mobile than Birmingham", it seems that Birmingham is for the yuppie. What about the good, honest working Brummies? For a city to be proud of itself it must look after all its citizens and get its priorities right; housing and care must surely come before luxuries like racing cars, Olympic Games, and even expensive trips abroad for councillors.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL J. NICHOLAS,
The Vicarage,
47 Shustoke Road,
Shard End, Birmingham.
August 26.

going to match them to make up for any custom he might lose.

If the all-day pubs make an increase in turnover equal to the extra opening hours will they reduce the prices? I doubt it very much.

Yours faithfully,
BARRINGTON LLOYD,
38 Debdon Road,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
August 30.

A plea for pews

From Chevalier S. G. Lane, KSJ
Sir, Mrs Beattie (August 26) asks, "What can we do to save the pews?"

Could the answer be — fill them?

Yours faithfully (literally),
STEPHEN G. LANE,
47 Union Street,
Chiroins Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Forestry aid in flooded Sahel

From the Director of SOS Sahel International (UK)

Sir, Mr Patrick Allen, in his letter of August 26, calls for the urgent re-planting and protection of forests along the Nile and its tributaries, both to safeguard communities from the worst effect of flooding and to protect the fragile environment.

To re-forest the Nile and the Ethiopian highlands to an extent that would minimise the consequences of such exceptionally heavy rainfall would be a gargantuan task, and, in view of the erosion and desertification that has already taken place, almost certainly impossible. However, much more can be done to increase tree cover in vulnerable though currently productive areas, provided such work is energetically supported by donors and national governments.

Mr Allen may be interested to learn that the British voluntary agency, SOS Sahel, is engaged in an extensive community forestry programme, supported by the Government of Sudan, along the Nile north of Khartoum, where much of the worst flooding has taken place. Its projects have promoted tree planting for the protection of villages and agriculture from the encroaching desert and the effects of drought. There is ample evidence that such planting improves the micro-climate and leads to increased crop yields, as well as providing useful fodder, timber, and fuel wood.

Ironically, the rains have proved a setback for development agencies as well as relief organisations. Some of SOS Sahel's work has been badly affected by flooding; young trees and seedlings have been washed away. But established plantings have helped to reduce flood damage and should put on extra growth, and agriculture generally may have a higher potential as a result of the rich deposits of alluvial silt left by the Nile waters.

Despite this year's rains, there is no evidence that the Sahelian climate is set for change. There is a continuing need to invest in the protection and sustainability of the region's agriculture and natural resources from both drought and occasional downpours.

While emergency relief is plainly an urgent necessity, it is vital not to lose sight of this long-term environmental and development work. Such projects may not be newsworthy, but they are in everyone's interest if Sudan and Ethiopia are to feature less prominently in the disaster stories of the future.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL CROSS, Director,
SOS Sahel International (UK),
22 Baron Street, N1.
August 30.

Television breaks

From Mr Frank Willis
Sir, Lord Mayhew's suggestion (August 30) that the ITV companies have been frustrating Parliament's intentions on "natural breaks" for over 30 years is hardly supported by the evidence.

Lord Mayhew acknowledges that he failed to secure parliamentary support for his own 1959 Bill, which would have significantly reduced the scale and scope of television advertising. Since then there have been at least three major overhauls of the broadcasting legislation and on none of these occasions has Parliament taken the opportunity to introduce restrictions of the sort favoured by Lord Mayhew.

One consequence of the policies which have been followed, under successive governments with the consent of successive Parliaments, was the development of a secure revenue base for introducing Channel Four. If maintained, the same policies offer the prospect of further extension of viewer choice in the 1990s. But if sectional interests in certain European countries succeed in standardising the German system of block advertising that prospect will begin to fade.

Nor has there been a free-for-all, as Lord Mayhew's letter half implies. The IBA has developed over the years a substantial body of rules for integrating the advertising into the programme schedule in a way which preserves programme integrity and viewer enjoyment while offering effective advertising communication. Anyone who doubts the impact of these rules need only look at American television, where advertising is far more intrusive.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WILLIS,
Controller of Advertising,
Independent Broadcasting
Authority,
70 Brompton Road, SW3.
August 31.

Period flavour

From Mr John Dove
Sir, Mr Davison (August 27) asks what to pack in his flight bags to convey the essence of England in 1988 to a voluntary exile of 30 years.

Given our recent performances in major international cricket and the weight restrictions on flight baggage, might I suggest the ashes of a British passport in a sealed plastic bag attached to one of the European substitutes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOVE,
Park Hill,
Pingle Lane,
Stone, Staffordshire.

Ray's a Titanic

There is a certain fashion at the moment for "bad" painting: late Chirico, late Picabia and (technically) late Picasso. Man Ray may scrape by on those terms, but it would do his memory no lasting service. He painted a few convincing images, he made a number of uniquely disturbing objects, but he was amongst the greatest photographers of all time.

Spitfire Diary, by E.A.W. Smith (William Kimber, £18.95) One of the few compensations for the privations of daily life at 127 Squadron in 1944 must have been the Mark IX Spitfire.

Darling Me, by Joyce Grenfell, edited by James Roscoe-Evans (Hodder, £14.95) Lively letters to her mother in America (1932-1944), from the lady who gave us "George - don't do that..."

The French Revolution, by George Ruod (Weidenfeld, £14.95) *Sans-culottes*, the sea-green incorruptible, Madame Defarge, trouble down at *la Bastille*, all good stuff.

Let it be supposed that my objection to some of the oracular poems is merely a prejudice against the mode, I should add that two of them seem to me memorable and beautiful ("Spell Against Sorrow" and "Spell to

Anne Kidder is a rather less ambitious poet, but within her chosen limits it seems to me a good one. She has perhaps never surpassed "At Parting", a love poem first published in the Forties, when its quiet excellence must have made it immediately

more charmingly and beguilingly ask her man not to sleep around? There is perhaps nothing else quite as fine in Mrs Ridler's *New and Selected Poems* (Faber, £10.95 or £4.95 paper), and I am sorry that she has omitted from this definitive volume the little poem "Now Philippa is gone" which I have always taken to be one of the best and happiest of

this book, as they should also from E.J. Scovell's *Collected Poems (Carcanet, £16.95)*. Mrs Scovell, now in her eighties, has published only four book-length collections, though she has always had her admirers, among them Geoffrey Grigson who hailed her as "the purest of women poets of our time". She is at once homely and visionary, with wit holding the images in place as securely as the rhymes enforce the sense.

Publishing Group

100

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Jane Rackham
and Ruth Sharman

BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceefax AM**.
6.35 **Edgar Kennedy in Kennedy's Castle** (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27.
8.35 **Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars** (b/w). Vintage sci-fi adventure serial starring Larry "Buster" Crabbe. 8.55 **Regional news** and weather.
9.00 **News and weather**.
9.05 **But First This!** introduced by Andy Crane and the gang, starting with **The Pink Panther Show**. Three cartoons (r). 9.20 **Why Don't You ...?** Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters (r).
9.50 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon (r).
10.00 **News and weather**, followed by **Silence**. Last episode of the adventure serial **Ceefax** (r).
10.30 **Play School** and **Play to Eleven** with Cyril Luckham.
11.00 **News and weather**, followed by **The Flintstones** (r).
11.30 **Video on One**. David Attenborough: 16 cameras that extraordinary creatures that live on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi (Ceefax) (r).
12.00 **News and weather**, followed by **The Garden**. Sue Townsend, author of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*, will be visiting the Garden Festival; and Mavis Nicholson talks to Keith Vaz, Britain's first Asian MP for 60 years, and his sister Valerie. 12.55 **Regional news** and weather.
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather.
1.30 **Neighbours**. Scott and Charlene call a truce; and Paul helps solve Madge's problem.
1.50 **The High Chaparral**. Vintage Western series about a ranching family. With Lefty Erickson (r).
2.40 **Bazaar**. Judi Spiers with money and time saving tips (r).

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University**. Ends 7.30am. 6.00 **Ceefax**.
12.30 **Open University Shows**.
1.50 **Clock-a-Dock** (r).
1.35 **Ceefax**.
2.00 **News and weather**, followed by **Sweet of the Sun**. Tears of the Moon. Jack Pizzey investigates the decline of Argentina since its heyday 40 years ago when it was the tenth richest country in the world.
3.00 **News and weather**, followed by **One Man and His Dog** (r). 3.45 **Case of 81**. Contemporary cartoon series about a dog. 3.50 **News and weather**.
4.00 **Dr Kildare**. First episode in a two-part drama (r). 4.25 **Boasting Butler**. Tony Butler continues his narrowboat journey through the canals of the Midlands.
4.55 **Harmaline's Walk**.
5.00 **Star Brass**. Non-stop music with Irene Sanford and Gordon Higginbottom.
5.30 **Ending Out with Tovey**. The rabbits from *Enid Blyton's* stories provide the inspiration when John Tovey creates food for a children's tea party.

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ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** beginning with *The Morning Programme* introduced by Richard Kaye 7.00 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Mike Morris and Richard Kaye. 8.50 **Wacadey**, for the young.
9.25 **Thames News** and weather.
9.30 **Who's My Line?** Odd occupations panel game introduced by Angela Rippon.
10.00 **Plastic Man** (r). 10.25 **News Headlines**. 10.30 **Dan's Duck Tales**. 11.00 **Daft Duck** (r). 11.10 **Puddle Lane**. Puppet series (r). 11.30 **Thames News** and weather. 11.50 **The Handmade Kid**. A story of sibling rivalry and a search for a child's identity.
12.30 **Santa Barbara**. Romance and rivalry between the Capwell and Lockridge families in California.
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet. 1.20 **Thames News** and weather. 1.30 **Barsties**. Comedy series starring Mike Pratt and Kenneth Cope. Hopkirk becomes suspicious when he sees a ghostly smile at the end of the line.
2.30 **All Our Yesterdays**. Bernard Braden presents newsreels clips from September 1983, when Cliff Richard was the top male singer and there was news of an addition to the Royal Family.
3.00 **Take the High Road**. Drama serial set in the Scottish Highlands.
3.25 **Thames News** and weather. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**. Fiona suspects foul play; and Caroline and Wayne start scheming.
4.00 **Twisted Tales**. 4.15 **Jonathan**. 4.45 **Prarie Station** Final episode (Oracle). 5.15 **Give Us a Clue**. Joining in the celebrity charade game are Bobby Dewo, Anthony Droke, Debbie Greenwood, Michael Groth, Judy Lee and Ian Ogilvy (r). 5.45 **News (Oracle)**. 5.50 **Thames News** and weather. 6.30 **Emmerdale Farm**. What a change of heart; and Turner gets an offer.

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 **Just 4 Fun**. Three programmes for children (r).
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service.
1.00 **Street**. American preschool learning series.
2.00 **Film: Northwest Mounted Police** (1940). Cecil B DeMille's action-packed adventure story stars Gary Cooper as the Texas Ranger who helps the police. Mounted out down the Riel Rebellion of 1885.
4.30 **You Get What You Deserve**. Russian animated film about an aggressive clown who takes the life of the Russian people.
4.50 **Countdown**. Last semifinal in the words and numbers game.
5.00 **Film: Fortune is a Woman** (1956, b/w). Jack Hawkins stars in Sidney Gilliat's thriller about an insurance salesman who discovers that an old friend of his is attempting to defraud his company. With Arlene Dahl, Dennis Price and Ian Hunter.
6.45 **Film: So You're a Rich Man**. Vacation (1947, b/w). Another in the series of comedy shorts about the hapless Joe McDoakes. Given two weeks off work, he

CHANNEL 4

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Lament for the Gaels

TELEVISION CHOICE

● **The Blood is Strong** (Channel 4, 8.00pm) is a documentary trilogy from Grampian Television on the history, culture and fate of the Gaelic Scots. Their history is long and distinguished, going back to the settlement of Iona in the sixth century. Their cultural achievement has been expressed through art, poetry and music. Their fate has been one of oppression and exile. The series is a lament for a once rich civilisation that is hanging on by its fingertips, though its impact continues to be felt around the world. Charlton Heston pops up to say it is marvellous to have Gaelic blood in his veins. In the 200 years between 1750 and 1950, more than a quarter of a million Gaels left their native land. Many went to the United States and Australasia and the programme opens in a burial ground in South Carolina, where the rows of Scottish names are the legacy of the battle of Culloden and the



Highland clearances. If in tone the commentary sounds a little like something got up for the overseas tourists who flock to the Highlands each year, the historical narrative is admirably clear and informative. Even the familiar story of Bonnie Prince Charlie and "Butcher" Cumberland is not stated by yet another telling. The clearances — a euphemism for a ruthless eviction of tenants by their

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

VHF stereo all day in London (104.8), the Midlands (98.4), the North (98.8) and central Scotland (98.8) and between 10.00pm-12.00pm (medium wave) elsewhere and MW (medium wave) News on the half-hour from 8.30am until 8.50pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00pm.
5.30 **Adrian John** 7.30 **Simon Mayo** 8.30 **Simon Bates** 9.30 **Radio 1 Roadshow** 12.30 **Newsbeat** 12.45 **Rory Scott** 3.00 **Steve Wright** 5.30 **Newsbeat** 5.45 **Bruno Brookes** 7.00 **Top of the Pops** 7.30 **Liz Kershaw** 8.00 **My Top Ten**: Carol Decker 10.00-12.00 **Andy Kershaw**

Radio 2

VHF stereo and MW (medium wave) all day in London (104.8), the Midlands (98.4), the North (98.8) and central Scotland (98.8) and between 10.00pm-12.00pm (medium wave) elsewhere and MW (medium wave) News on the half-hour from 8.30am until 8.50pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00pm.
5.30 **Adrian John** 7.30 **Simon Mayo** 8.30 **Simon Bates** 9.30 **Radio 1 Roadshow** 12.30 **Newsbeat** 12.45 **Rory Scott** 3.00 **Steve Wright** 5.30 **Newsbeat** 5.45 **Bruno Brookes** 7.00 **Top of the Pops** 7.30 **Liz Kershaw** 8.00 **My Top Ten**: Carol Decker 10.00-12.00 **Andy Kershaw**

WORLD SERVICE

At times on GMT. At an hour for BST. 6.00 **Newsday** 6.30 **Time for News** 6.45 **World Service** 7.00 **World News** 7.30 **World News** 7.45 **World News** 8.00 **World News** 8.15 **World News** 8.30 **World News** 8.45 **World News** 9.00 **World News** 9.15 **World News** 9.30 **World News** 9.45 **World News** 10.00 **World News** 10.15 **World News** 10.30 **World News** 10.45 **World News** 11.00 **World News** 11.15 **World News** 11.30 **World News** 11.45 **World News** 12.00 **World News** 12.15 **World News** 12.30 **World News** 12.45 **World News** 1.00 **World News** 1.15 **World News** 1.30 **World News** 1.45 **World News** 2.00 **World News** 2.15 **World News** 2.30 **World News** 2.45 **World News** 3.00 **World News** 3.15 **World News** 3.30 **World News** 3.45 **World News** 4.00 **World News** 4.15 **World News** 4.30 **World News** 4.45 **World News** 5.00 **World News** 5.15 **World News** 5.30 **World News** 5.45 **World News** 6.00 **World News** 6.15 **World News** 6.30 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Death of swimmer blamed on her coach

Continued from page 1
norm until we were about six miles off the French coast.
"Then she started to tire and we were stuck on six miles for quite some time. At that stage it was not really dangerous and we carried on. But then I started to become concerned and told the coach."

Senhorita Agondi was disoriented and did not seem to know in which direction to swim, he said.

"The coach replied, 'She wants to swim'. Mr Cook said, 'I said, 'Right, from this time on I will accept no responsibility for this girl'. I turned to young Mark and said, 'I want you to put that down in your log'. The main task of observers for the Channel Swimmers' Association is to keep notes of what happens during the trip across the Channel and to ensure that swimmers obey rules like not touching the boat."

Mr Cook said he again tried to stop the swim because he was getting "very, very perturbed" about her condition.

The trainer said she had paid "lots of money" for the boat, he said. "I said, 'Yes, but it's not worth the girl's life'. You get to know with experience whether a swimmer is able to carry on or not. When they keep stopping and feeding every few minutes then it's a sign that they've had it."

Although there were difficulties in communicating with Senhora Russo because she spoke only Portuguese and Mr Lewis spoke Spanish, Mr Cook believes his message was made clear.

"We carried on a bit further but by now I was really worried and thought it had to stop. I looked over the side of the boat at the swimmer and I drew my hand across my throat to tell her to finish the

swim but she took no notice. The trainer assured me that everything was all right and that Senhora Agondi wanted to swim.
"I realized that things were getting bad and dangerous. I was so worried that I called the Dover Straits Coastguard and said we were having problems with the coach, to the point of it being detrimental to the girl's life."

"The coastguard said, 'Right sir. It is noted and I will also inform the French coastguard'.
"She carried on swimming while the trainer sat on the side of the boat waving a white cloth and blowing her whistle to attract her attention and get her to swim towards the boat. Then she stopped swimming and drifted behind the boat and I had to turn round to go after her. She was clapped out but her coach did nothing."

"She swam for about two or three minutes and then



Renata Agondi preparing to set off last week on the swim that ended in her death. Right, Mr Graham Featherbe and Mr Colin Cook, who tried to persuade her to stop.

stopped again. The coach gave her some hot tea and she drifted round the front of the boat. By this time even the young observer and my mate were going on at her. I think the observer got through and she agreed to end the swim.

"We threw a lifebelt with a rope to her but she ignored it and swam away. I had to turn the boat and chase after her."

"Every so often during the swim she had lain flat on the sea with her arms outstretched so that she could breathe out with her face under the water. But this time I realized that she wasn't blowing out."

"The young observer dived into the water with the life ring and swam to her. He grabbed her, turned her over. We pulled them back to a rubber

boat where my mate was waiting. But the sea was very rough and the rubber boat was jumping around so much that my mate almost fell in the water."

"I dropped a rope over the side of the boat which they tied to her and we pulled her on board. Mark and I tried to bring her round with mouth-to-mouth and cardiac resuscitation but she did not respond."

"In the meantime I had called the Dover Straits Coastguard again and they told me to keep trying to bring her round until help arrived."

The Coastguard told him to steam towards another boat, the Arema Jay, a 50ft motor sailer about three miles away that was accompanying

another Channel swimmer and had a medical team on board.

"Before we reached her, a Wessex helicopter alerted by the Coastguard arrived from RAF Manston and lowered a winchman on to my boat". Miss Agondi was taken to Calais Hospital, where she was certified dead.

Mr Michael Oram, captain of the Arema Jay, said the Canadian swimmer he was escorting, Miss Barbara McNeill, aged 30, agreed to call off her attempt to cross the Channel when she heard Senhora Agondi was in trouble.

"She was straight up the ladder and into the boat and we were ready to assist," he said.



When the Hilda May returned home, all those on board were interviewed by the Kent police and their statements passed on to the French authorities. Senhora Russo was arrested last Friday when she went to France to identify the body.

She was held in custody until her release on bail totalling about £60,000 yesterday.

M Vogel Weith, an examining magistrate in Boulogne, is examining all the facts of the case to determine whether to proceed with charges against her. Her lawyer, Maître Bernard-Charles Costenoble, said she totally rejected the allegation that she had refused to let Senhora Agondi abandon her cross-Channel swim when she was exhausted.

Maitre Costenoble said he was awaiting the results of the post mortem carried out last Friday on the swimmer before commenting further. Senhora Russo is due to appear in court on Friday morning in Boulogne-sur-Mer. If she is convicted, she could be imprisoned for between two and five years.

Senhorita Agondi's father, Dr Raul Camara Agondi, said yesterday he had asked Senhora Russo to be her coach and accompany her on the cross-Channel swim. Dr Agondi, aged 53, a retired physician, said of Senhora Russo's imprisonment in France: "She doesn't deserve this. I don't believe Judith insisted that Renata continue swimming."

In an interview with *The Times*, he described Senhora Russo as a kind of role model for his daughter. The two met more than three years ago, when Senhora Russo, a competitive diver, ran a diving school in the coastal town of Santos, near São Paulo.

She was the ideal person to accompany his daughter on the Channel swim, he said. "My wife and I decided not to go so as not to get in the way. I felt she needed a person who was a combination mother and sister, and someone who had technical ability. Judith combined all these qualities."

Dr Agondi said he enrolled his four daughters in swimming classes years ago for fear that "something might happen one day in a pool or in the ocean". Renata excelled as a long-distance swimmer, winning virtually every race in Brazil and being placed in several international contests.

Last year, after several successful swims in Italian races, she told her father: "My dream is to swim the English Channel." More specifically, she wanted to break the Brazilian record for crossing the Channel, held by Senhora Kay France.

Senhorita Agondi has been described by her Brazilian friends, her fiancé and a former trainer as extremely capable, with a burning ambition to succeed. "Even when she was tired, I never saw her quit," said Senhor Antonio Silvio Nôse.

Extra hazards faced at the limit of endurance

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

All endurance sports demand unyielding determination. Long-distance swimming perhaps requires it more than any other activity because of the need to combat such a variety of hazards.

Hypothermia, sea-sickness, tiredness and disorientation have to be overcome. (Mr Kevin Murphy, the only British man to have completed a two-way Channel crossing, once swam for six hours in a shoal of jelly fish.)

Professor Bill Keatinge of the London Hospital, author of *Survival in Cold Water*, said yesterday: "I cannot comment on the case of Renata Agondi. But I have never heard of a

swimmer driving him or herself to death unless they had taken some stimulant, including alcohol, and been grossly overpowered by someone in the boat accompanying them. In ordinary cases, the motivation tends to go to a certain point.

"An exception is that of children, but they have less subconscious fat (under-skin fat) to counter the cold."

Professor Keatinge says long-distance swimmers need determination and subconscious fat, which is more prevalent in women than men.

"Like all endurance events, long-distance swimming is potentially dangerous but there have been remarkably few deaths, he said.

Dr David Hunt, whose twin daughters

Carole and Sarah last month swam the Channel in unison, recommended that the coach or, even better, a doctor with knowledge of the individual and long-distance swimming, should make the decision.

"If a swimmer thinks he or she has had enough then they have had enough. No one should persuade them to go on. But you know when the swimmer is in trouble. There is a distinct slowing of the rate of the stroke. The competitor begins behaving irrationally. The swimmer often begins to swim away from the accompanying boat."

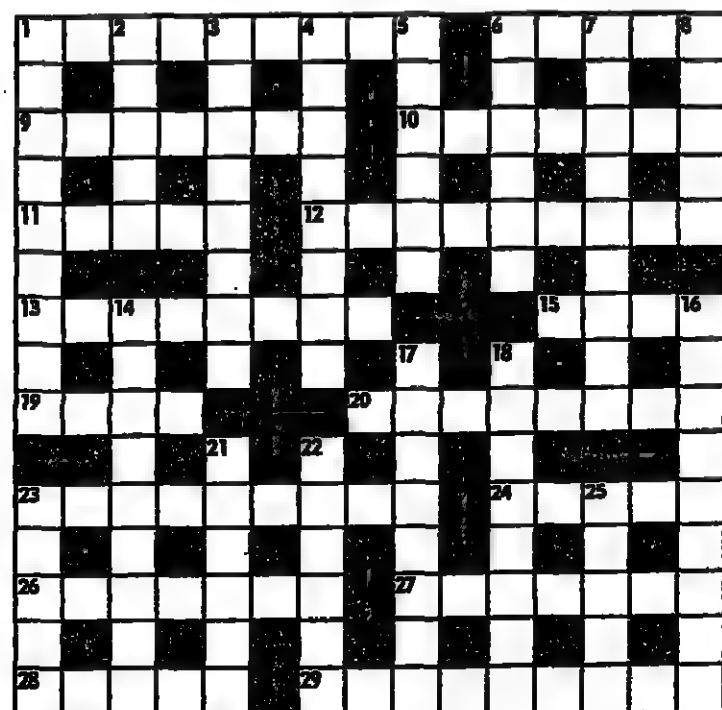
"The coach has got to be firm and state that he is in charge. I pulled Carole out of Loch Lomond once and

was not popular. But it was the correct thing to do."

Commander Gerry Forsberg, a former England-to-France record-holder, said he always knew when he was pushing himself too far and left the water. An exception was when he was 30 minutes short of a swim across Morecambe Bay in Cumbria during a gale: "I thought it would be colder in the boat than in the sea."

"Swimmers put up with stomach cramp and being sick. But this is not the end. Only the swimmer really knows. Mature swimmers usually know when to come out but if there is a coach, you have to do what he says. Swimmers have to push themselves to the limit but not beyond."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,763



- ACROSS**
- It gives a rough outline of comic turn with plot (6-3).
 - Seems a firm supporter, but is full of venom (5).
 - Type of meat served in caviare brought back for old queen (7).
 - Man too jealous to return greeting (7).
 - Said on the Continent to mean a repeat order (5).
 - Personal assistant, cheeky to take copy of computer output (5,4).
 - Having no consuming desire to see soldiers overcome by lack of oxygen (8).
 - Secretary's speed leaves nothing to be desired (4).
 - Wasps, for example, heard in swarm here (4).
 - Creator of U2 (8).
 - Promises, it's clear, coming to nothing (9).
 - A bit of discrimination (5).
 - Young creature to plead insanity (7).
 - One constituent of fire may be oxygen, for example (7).
 - Start playing some games (5).
 - Urge to go to the horses: put your shirt on one? Quite the reverse (5-4).
- DOWN**
- Find place quickly in firm (9).
 - River army comes up for leave of absence (5).
 - Is unable to encompass range of song (8).
 - For sauce base, blend includes *purée de poire* (8).
 - Ready to take exercise after a short walk (6).
 - In the middle he appears to be consistent (6).
 - For a singer, a good time to get a buck (9).
 - Started up in fear: all's well (5).
 - They were thought to be in the sea once: I'd stand corrected (9).
 - Gave appearance of quietly nursed grievance (9).
 - Poem about ace painter (8).
 - Be more upright, but by no means energetic (8).
 - Labour pains stab (6).
 - Poisoner catches general unaware (6).
 - Saw most of the Turkish uprising (5).
 - Swimmer appears when snow's starting to go (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PRESIDENTS

OLD KIDDERHOOK

a. Andrew Jackson

b. Martin Van Buren

c. John Adams

THAT DAMNED COWBOY

a. Lyndon Johnson

b. Ronald Reagan

c. Teddy Roosevelt

FATHER OF THE CONSTITUTION

a. George Washington

b. Thomas Jefferson

c. James Madison

SILENT CAL

a. Grover Cleveland

b. James E. Polk

c. Coolidge

Answers on page 16, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,762

Answers on page 16, column 1

WEATHER

A deep, vigorous depression over Britain will produce a very windy day, with gales in many places, some of them severe in exposed areas. It will start wet over much of the country, with some heavy rain and hill fog, although northern parts of Scotland will be dry at first. Brighter but showery and very blustery weather will spread quickly north and east from the South-west. Some northern and north-western areas will be cloudy and wet until after dark. Other areas will have squally showers. Outlook: Slowly becoming less windy, with a mix of sunshine and showers. Rather cool.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=London; 2=Paris; 3=Tokyo; 4=Sydney; 5=New York; 6=Hong Kong; 7=Singapore; 8=Bangkok; 9=Calcutta; 10=Delhi; 11=Mumbai; 12=Beijing; 13=Seoul; 14=Manila; 15=Jakarta; 16=Singapore; 17=Hong Kong; 18=Macau; 19=Shanghai; 20=Beijing; 21=Seoul; 22=Manila; 23=Jakarta; 24=Singapore; 25=Hong Kong; 26=Macau; 27=Shanghai; 28=Beijing; 29=Seoul; 30=Manila; 31=Jakarta; 32=Singapore; 33=Hong Kong; 34=Macau; 35=Shanghai; 36=Beijing; 37=Seoul; 38=Manila; 39=Jakarta; 40=Singapore; 41=Hong Kong; 42=Macau; 43=Shanghai; 44=Beijing; 45=Seoul; 46=Manila; 47=Jakarta; 48=Singapore; 49=Hong Kong; 50=Macau; 51=Shanghai; 52=Beijing; 53=Seoul; 54=Manila; 55=Jakarta; 56=Singapore; 57=Hong Kong; 58=Macau; 59=Shanghai; 60=Beijing; 61=Seoul; 62=Manila; 63=Jakarta; 64=Singapore; 65=Hong Kong; 66=Macau; 67=Shanghai; 68=Beijing; 69=Seoul; 70=Manila; 71=Jakarta; 72=Singapore; 73=Hong Kong; 74=Macau; 75=Shanghai; 76=Beijing; 77=Seoul; 78=Manila; 79=Jakarta; 80=Singapore; 81=Hong Kong; 82=Macau; 83=Shanghai; 84=Beijing; 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1409.4 (-0.5)	US dollar 1.6830 (-0.0075)
FT-SE 100 1753.6 (-1.2)	W German mark 3.1573 (+0.0011)
USM (Datastream) 158.31 (-0.14)	Trade-weighted 75.8 (same)

THE TIMES

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Takeover scheme for NESL

Mr Alex Copson, director of North Venture, the shipping and technical project company, yesterday said he will submit his scheme for taking over the state-owned North East Shipbuilders Ltd (NESL) to the Department of Trade and Industry next week.

He plans to build 150 waste disposal ships, costing £67 million each, at the Sunderland yard, a subsidiary of British Shipbuilders.

He made clear that he not only wants to pay nothing for NESL, but wants a wage subsidy of about £1 million monthly until the first keel is laid.

Dividend rises

Pentland Industries, owner of 32 per cent of Reebok, the sports shoe manufacturer, has raised its interim dividend by 270 per cent from 0.135p to 0.3p. The group is actively seeking acquisitions in Britain. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June increased from £34.3 million to £38.5 million on sales up from £208.4 million to £243.4 million.

Temps, page 20

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2080.08 (-8.18)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27365.95 (-145.70)
Hong Kong		
Hang Seng		2443.80 (+4.25)
Amsterdam	Gen	284.2 (+0.8)
Sydney	AO	1570.0 (-10.4)
Frankfurt		
Commerzbank		1473.3 (+7.5)
Bremen		
General		4879.2 (+11.5)
Paris	CAC	347.7 (+0.1)
Zurich	SKA Gen	480.1 (-1.7)
London		
FT-A All-Share		911.17 (+0.10)
FT-100		1753.6 (-1.2)
FT-Gold Miners		194.1 (-3.1)
FT-Fixed Interest		96.72 (-0.13)
FT-Govt Secs		88.54 (-0.18)
Recent issues		Page 20
Closing prices		Page 23

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
British Estates	323.5p (+10p)
MEPC	323.5p (+10p)
Peacocks	643.5p (+32p)
Watergate	125p (+20p)
Steel Bunn	219p (+11p)
Yale & Vitor	409.5p (+10p)
Burnth	312p (+8p)
Brent Walker	355.5p (+9p)
S & W Barford	371p (+15p)
Morgan Crucible	226.5p (+11p)
Person	709p (+12p)
Eye (Windsor)	755p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Granger	482p (-17p)
US Pathology	302.5p (-10p)
Bentley	323.5p (-10p)
Wm Collins 'A'	450p (-9p)
Pleasurama	205.5p (-8p)
Wagon Industrial	301p (-9p)
Security Services	571p (-9p)
Taco	190p (-8p)
Closing prices	
Range	19380

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	12%
3-month Interbank	12%-12.5%
3-month eligible bills	11%-11.5%
Bank rate	
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.25-7.28%
30-year bonds	9.75-9.8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6830	\$ £1.6830
DM 1.573	DM 1.573
SwF 2.957	SwF 2.957
FF 10.7241	FF 10.7241
Yen 229.58	Yen 229.58
Index 76.8	Index 76.8
ECU 50.75746	SDR 50.75737

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$425.25 pm \$427.75	
close \$429.25-429.75 (\$255.00-255.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$429.70-430.20	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct.) pm \$14.65bbl (\$14.87)
Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Peachey Property (02680) soared 33p. Slough Estates (01944) revealed a 21 per cent interim profits expansion, and shares lifted 8p. Maxwell Communication Corporation (02490) firmed 3p. Elsewhere, Yale & Valor (02534) rallied 9p but BSR International (01117) lost 14p after admitting that bid talks with a mystery suitor had been called off.

● Recent additions include: Rentaminster 03430

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

At no stage was I informed, says former Secretary of State

Brittan denies Clowes decision

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when Barlow Clowes was granted a licence by the Department, yesterday denied categorically that he personally had any involvement in the decision.

The licence was issued in October 1985, the month after Mr Brittan took over from Mr Norman Tebbit, who had been "minded to refuse a licence" to Barlow Clowes only six months earlier.

Mr Brittan's declared ignorance of the affair was roundly condemned by Mr Tony Blair, Labour's spokesman on City affairs, as "strong evidence of negligence" by the DTI, given that the Department was on notice that something was seriously wrong with the firm.

"It would be quite extraordinary, where serious doubts had been raised by the previous Secretary of State, if the licence was allowed to go through without being seen by the Secretary of State in office," he said.

Mr Blair said it was becoming increasingly incumbent on the Government to put together some realistic scheme

of compensation, rather than force investors to go through legal proceedings.

In response to the disclosure in *The Times* of a DTI letter to the Barlow Clowes solicitor saying Mr Tebbit was "minded to refuse a licence," Mr Brittan said no papers relating to these matters crossed his desk.

After Mr Tebbit's formal expression of disquiet, Barlow Clowes was asked for a series of assurances before any licence could be given. A letter from the DTI said it was considered in the best interests of investors to avoid action that might lead to a collapse.

The letter, written in April 1985, said that Barlow Clowes had been carrying on investment business with the necessary licence and quoted a Bank of England view that the firm's operations were then in breach of the Banking Act of 1979. The letter also expressed reservations about the way the business had been run.

Assurances were later made by the company and its financial advisers. The licence was finally granted on October 25.

"At no stage was I informed or asked to make decisions," Mr Brittan said.

He made clear that he did

not find it surprising that, as Secretary of State, he had not been asked to decide on the licensing issue. "It happens all the time," he commented.

Mr Brittan said he had checked the circumstances of the licensing with DTI officials and Lord Young of Gifford, the present Secretary of State. He said he had not been questioned about the Barlow Clowes licence by investigators looking into the DTI's role.

He declined further comment, apart from denying reports that he had written to his constituents in Richmond, Yorkshire, predicting that the Government would be setting up a compensation fund at an early date.

The Westland affair brought Mr Brittan's resignation from the Cabinet in January 1986, only four months after taking up the DTI position, but Mrs Thatcher recently named him as successor to Lord Cockfield as Britain's senior member of the European Commission.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs at the time of the licence decision, refused to comment on the case while the DTI investigation was in progress.



Not surprised: Leon Brittan, Secretary of State at the time of the Barlow Clowes licensing

Tebbit 'was minded to refuse' Clowes licence

By Lawrence Lunt

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was "minded to refuse" a licence to Barlow Clowes when he was in office.

From Wednesday's edition of *The Times*

Dollar heads for key Y140 level

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar rose strongly yesterday after the Japanese authorities indicated they would not join the recent worldwide tightening of monetary policy.

The US currency rose above the important Y135 level and dealers said it was set to challenge Y140, which is generally regarded as the Group of Seven's upper limit.

The dollar's rise, initially brought about by misunderstandings in the foreign exchange markets about a proposed 25 per cent capital gains tax on certain new share issues, was reinforced when Bank of Japan officials ruled out a rise in the discount rate.

The tax, if levied, will apply only to profits made on shares bought before a stock market listing, although a smaller general capital gains tax on stock profits of between 5 and 10 per cent is expected to be introduced at some stage in Japan.

After rises in interest rates in Europe and the United States, dealers have put the focus on Japan. But, with the

Girobank details 'skimpy'

Some institutions which expressed an initial interest in buying Girobank, the banking arm of the Post Office, have said that the information provided was inadequate.

A spokesman for one institution described the information given to them on Girobank as "skimpy" and not detailed enough to base any serious decision on.

Meanwhile it has emerged that neither the TSB Group nor Royal Bank of Scotland are interested in bidding for Girobank.

Bank of Scotland is understood to be one of the main contenders and is almost certain to be one of about five institutions on a shortlist of potential buyers being drawn up by J Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant banker, who is handling the sale. Littlewoods and Marks and Spencer may also be on the list.

The shortlist will be completed in the next two to three weeks and the institutions chosen will be given more detailed information.

Wereldhave raises bid and claims Peachey

By Carol Ferguson

Wereldhave, the Dutch property group, has won control of Peachey Property Corporation, owner of London's Canary Wharf, after a fierce takeover battle.

Victory was clinched by the Dutch after increasing the bid by about 6 per cent to £282 million, and sending the broker, Cazenove, into the market with orders to buy at up to 650p, the new bid price.

By 11 am Cazenove had found sellers of 25 per cent to add to the 10.4 per cent already owned by Wereldhave and the crucial 50 per cent level was breached shortly before the market closed.

The revised bid is 38p a share higher than Wereldhave's original offer of 612p.

Mr Onno Husken, the chairman of Wereldhave, said that his offer had been given a boost by the rise in interest rates. "It caused greater uncertainty in the market, and property shares fell quite

T Cowie makes £16m purchases

By Our City Staff

T Cowie, the motor and finance group, is paying £16.4 million for Hughes Daf and Whitehall Lodge Finance.

Hughes Daf is a coach dealer and distributor while Whitehall Lodge provides hire purchase facilities for a number of Hughes Daf customers. The £16.4 million which Cowie is paying includes the repayment of a £6 million inter-company loan.

T Cowie is buying the

Maxwell agrees cash bid for AGB

By Colin Campbell

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher and the driving force behind Maxwell Communication Corporation, yesterday agreed a £134.2 million deal with AGB, Britain's leading market research company.

AGB, which had earlier been in negotiations with M&A, the financial and advertising group, and had planned an 11 am EGM yesterday to finalize its arrangements, yesterday adjourned its meeting on receipt of an offer from Pergamon at 220p per share cash for all of AGB.

Pergamon's offer has the "strong recommendation" of the AGB board with the exception of one director who could not be contacted.

Mr Maxwell also announced that in pursuit of MCC's earlier £2.3 billion (£1.36 billion) tender offer of \$80 a share for Macmillan, the US publishing house, "high-level friendly talks" had taken place in London on Tuesday at which information on Macmillan had been provided.

He also unveiled interim results of his MCC group showing pre-tax profits for the six months ended June 30 of £71.9 million compared with £70.5 million, on sales of £505.7 million (£370.2 million). Pre-tax profits for the previous full year ended December 1987, were £166 million. MCC earns the bulk of its operating profits traditionally in the second half.

Mr Maxwell had planned initially to leave the MCC press conference to his two

Comment.....21

sons, Kevin and Ian, but made a late appearance to speak as MCC's chairman and stress that his group was a serious European candidate for global communications.

He said that he regarded the future with "great confidence" and reiterated that it was MCC's intention to achieve £3 billion to £5 billion annual sales by 1990 "with profit growth to match."

However, the majority of City analysts were distinctly unimpressed with MCC's interim results and many have now downgraded their year-end profits forecasts. A number added that they would only be recommending the share to clients for yield attraction. MCC shares rose by 3p to 195p.

Net interest and investment income from treasury operations dropped from £32.1 million to £9.7 million. Group operating profits were £50.7 million compared with £38.1 million.

At the net level, earnings per share — on a capital base which increased by 70 per cent to 621 million shares — eased from 12.6p to 8.8p a share. The interim dividend is being held at 6p a share.

Stores 'not to blame for credit surge'

By Rosemary Unsworth

Leading retailers hit back yesterday at suggestions that their store charge cards have helped to fuel the recent spending boom.

The Retail Credit Group reported that total amounts outstanding on credit to its members grew by 18 per cent to £1.12 billion in the year to March 31. This represents about 3 per cent of total consumer credit, excluding mortgages, or less than 1 per cent of total personal sector borrowing including home loans. It compares with 21 per cent growth to £954 million in the previous year, the first time the organization reported full annual figures.

The Retail Credit Group represents large retailers which offer credit. It includes the Burton Group, Dixons, Littlewoods, Marks and Spencer, Next and Storehouse.

The amount outstanding on each customer's account also fell by 8 per cent from £175 to £161 in the same period although the number of accounts rose 28 per cent from 5.4 million to 6.9 million.

In common with banks, which say many people pay off their debts every month to avoid interest charges, the RCG said nearly half its members' customers had cards which enabled them to pay in full each month.

The number of people taking up store cards has continued to fall in the first quarter to the end of June, said Miss Elizabeth Stanton, RCG director. "These figures undermine any suggestion that retailers have been fuelling the credit boom," she said.

Miss Stanton said that other forms of credit, including mortgages and hire purchase and loans for cars and home improvements, were more responsible for the consumer credit boom.

Alan Pascoe campaigns to turn US into a soccer country

WCRS hopes for good Cup run

By Martin Walker

Viewers of Channel 4 who have failed to master the intricacies of American football in this country may yet have the last laugh on their US cousins.

WCRS, the advertising agency, has set up a joint venture to market and develop soccer in the US in the run-up to the World Cup competition, to be hosted by the States in 1994.

The deal has been negotiated through its Pascoe Nally International subsidiary, headed by Mr Alan Pascoe, the former British Olympic hurdler.

PNI is taking a half stake in USA Soccer Properties, putting in up to \$2 million (£1.2 million) for working capital. The business is expected to enjoy turnover in excess of \$60 million in the six-year run-up to the World Cup.

The other partner for the US Soccer Federation — a US company run by Mr Phil Woosnam, the former Welsh soccer international.

Soccer Properties will seek out sponsorship deals to promote the sport in the US, which had a brief love affair with the game in the late 1970s when the Brazilian star Pele and the West German captain Franz Beckenbauer were based there, and matches attracted crowds of 70,000 to 80,000.

Interest in top-level soccer has waned, but its popularity at grass roots level is increasing again. There remain a number of regional leagues and associations and the game is played by 17 million American schoolchildren.

Earlier this summer, fittingly on July 4, FIFA, the world body governing soccer, announced that Cup games would be held at a number of locations in the US, and this is expected to rekindle interest.

Soccer Properties already has commitments for sponsorship from organizations such as Thomas Cook, Midland Bank and Philips, the Dutch electronics group.

"Our strategy is based around the power of the media in the States, and of

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INVESTMENT WITH A FUTURE

GRE interims soar 35% on better UK performance

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurer, yesterday announced a 35 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £111.7 million after a sharp improvement in its domestic performance.

But the company gave a warning that continuing losses from bad weather over the past few years would mean a significant increase in house insurance premiums.

British profits shot into the black with £55 million pre-tax for the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £29.3 million at the same time last year.

Mr Peter Dugdale, the chief executive, described the improvement as "a magnificent turnaround," achieved despite heavy claims from last autumn's hurricane.

Claims on damage caused by the hurricane had so far cost £70 million and were still coming in at the rate of about 100 a week. The final cost was likely to be about £75 million, although reinsurance cover reduced the payout for GRE to £15 million.

Mr Dugdale said that private household building structure premium rates were being increased by 10 per cent because of the severe losses from bad weather over the past five years. Selective increases in car insurance rates were also likely although there was still an underwriting loss on this business.

GRE's domestic business produced its first underwriting profit in Britain for more than five years, despite the high weather claims. This helped to cut the group's overall underwriting loss from £31 million to £11.5 million, the best performance for a decade.

Most areas of the group's operations, including the US, Canada and West Germany, showed improved results. Profits from the life assurance business were also strong, up 30 per cent to £14.8 million from £11.5 million.

The company is raising its interim dividend by 16.75 per cent, from 3p to 3.5p.

Tempos, page 20



'Magnificent turnaround': Peter Dugdale, chief executive, announcing GRE's profits (Photograph: Alan Walker)

Pearl Group up to £29m at half-time

Pearl Group, the industrial life office, yesterday announced pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June of £28.8 million, an increase of £7 million, as most areas of business improved.

Life assurance continued to grow, with new annual premiums rising 34 per cent to £40 million, reflecting the swing from unit-linked business to more conventional

forms of life policy. Ordinary branch life business made profits of £11.1 million against £9.7 million, while industrial branch profits also rose from £9.7 million to £11.1 million. Unit-linked profits increased from £1.5 million to only £1.7 million.

Improved results from British underwriting meant that short-term insurance business produced a trading profit of

£2.5 million, against a £2.2 million loss last time. The interim dividend rises by 1p to 6p.

Pearl has had considerable success with its personal pension schemes. It was the first life office to receive Inland Revenue approval for its schemes and has been promoting them in a £1 million television advertising campaign. The results continued to

buoy the company's shares at above 460p as speculative interest remained. FAI Insurance, the Australian insurance group led by Mr Larry Adler, holds a 6.4 per cent stake. He has not made his intentions clear, and as a result, Pearl has been tipped as a takeover candidate, although similar suggestions have also been made about companies such as Abbey Life.

Slough Estates ahead 21.8% to top £34m

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

The strength of the British property market over the past six months is further underlined by a 21.8 per cent advance in pre-tax profits at Slough Estates in the first half of 1988, from £28.0 million to £34.1 million.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, the chairman, has lifted the interim dividend from 2.8p to 3.3p a share.

Operating income over the six months was £44.2 million, against £39.5 million, with property trading and other trading showing a near-50 per cent improvement. Slough's 52.2 per cent holding in

Bredero Properties, which reported on Tuesday, yielded £1.8 million against £1 million a year ago.

Interest charges fell from £8.9 million to £7 million and earnings per share rose by 17.9 per cent to 3.3p a share. During the half-year, 597,000 square feet of new construction was completed and a further 650,000 square feet is under construction.

In Europe, properties have been sold in Belgium and West Germany, while in the US terms have been agreed for 23 acres of space for office development in Chicago.

Earl denies Elstree is being sold to Shield

By Martin Waller

A war of words over the ownership of Elstree film studios intensified as Shield Group, the North London property developer that wants to develop it, unveiled its plans.

A claim by Mr Norman Mazure, the Shield chairman, that his group had been offered Elstree for £32.5 million was strongly denied by its future owner, an unnamed consortium of property developers fronted by Tranwood, the merchant bank.

"As far as the consortium are concerned, they never want to bear the name Shield

again," said Mr Peter Earl, the head of Tranwood. His clients take possession on October 28 from Cannon Group.

Mr Earl described Shield and its partner, the private Holly Corporation, as "living in fantasy land."

Mr Mazure claimed Tranwood Earl had informed him it had already received two unconditional offers, at a price of £32.5 million.

Shield wants planning permission for around 550 homes, with 200,000 sq ft of offices. In return, it will keep film-making going.

UK deficit on travel soars to £831m

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A jump of 14 per cent in the numbers of visitors from Western Europe helped during June to offset a decline in visitors from North America as the effect of stronger sterling took its toll.

But more foreign travel by Britons, with higher spending, has left the balance of payments on the travel account increasingly in deficit in the first half of this year.

Spending by Britons abroad in the first half of the year was £3.35 billion, a 16 per cent increase on the same period last year. But visitors to

Britain spent £2.5 billion, a rise of just 1 per cent. This left a deficit on the travel account of £831 million in the first half of this year compared with a £374 million deficit in last year's first half.

Visitors from North America fell by 6 per cent in June compared with the same month last year, and were down by the same percentage for all of this year's second quarter. The trend looks likely to continue for the time being.

The US is still the single most important source of foreign tourists for the United

Kingdom. But a drive by the British Tourist Authority to reduce the reliance on the US trade by developing tourist flows from elsewhere, particularly Western Europe, is now bringing results.

The number of visitors from other parts of the world in addition to Europe and North America rose by 4 per cent in June on an annual comparison. During the second quarter, visitors from Western Europe rose by 2 per cent with the rest of the world up 6 per cent.

The surge of Britons going

abroad has continued with the biggest increase to North America. This reflects the pulling power for the British of the US where the increased buying power of sterling makes for cheap holiday living. There was an overall increase in trips abroad by Britons of 3 per cent in the first half of this year on an annual comparison, but to North America there was a rise of 23 per cent.

In June Britons made 3.1 million visits abroad, an 11 per cent increase on the same month last year.

A taste of mystery in the East

As barriers between world financial centres tumble, City lawyers are becoming ever more resourceful. For the official opening of its Tokyo office earlier this year, top law firm Slaughter & May was determined to entertain its guests in style and, in accordance with the Japanese tradition of bestowing gifts upon them, the partners ordered some 300 mini-hampers from Fortnum and Mason containing an ever-so-British selection of jams, preserves and shortcakes. All went well until Japanese customs men impounded them on the grounds that some ingredients had possibly been contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster. Partner George Goulding, in charge of operations out East, was summoned to identify all the said ingredients and explain how the products were cooked. Being a dab hand in the kitchen, and having a Japanese mother, Goulding coped surprisingly well with the quince jam, rhubarb and ginger preserve, and shortcake. But his colleagues are still intrigued to discover how he explained away the Patum Peperum, otherwise known as a gentleman's relish, whose ingredients have been a closely guarded secret for several generations. "I'm not sure I want to know," says Richard Youard, one of the firm's senior partners. "But he managed to get the packages freed 24 hours before the ceremony."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Leslie takes the chair

Peter Leslie has got his chairmanship at last. Having narrowly missed becoming chairman of Barclays Bank — John Quinlan got it instead, with Leslie awarded the deputy chairmanship — he has, I hear, now agreed to take the chair at the Overseas Development Institute, in succession to Sir Reay Geddes KBE. Leslie, who will keep his

position at Barclays where he has responsibility for overseas operations, is undoubtedly a wise choice. One of the ODI's chief tasks is to promote understanding of the Third World. The Third World is something that Barclays — with more than £2.5 billion in problem loans and bad debt provisions — has had to think long and hard about of late.

Writ large...

The curse of the over-litigious American lawyer spreads ever further. Microfilm Reprographics, a small microfilming bureau, is taking no chances of incurring the huge legal bills

footed by the likes of BAT and Beazer in recent cross-Atlantic forays. Its £11 million purchase of a similar but smaller US company yesterday was an agreed deal. But, on the strictest legal advice, neither the chairman nor directors were allowed to comment on it. The reason, according to merchant bank Morgan Grenfell, was the fear of a big law suit should somebody say the wrong thing. Well, if you must do business where a woman successfully sued a restaurant for "mental distress" when her favourite dish was missing.

Hi, campers

From high technology to hi-hi — BP is taking over a holiday camp. It is to take on a 12 month lease, as of October, on the Pontins holiday village in Osmington, Dorset. But it is doing so to house 450 temporary workers for the development of the nearby Wytch Farm oilfield.



'Blowed if I'm going to waste eight good GCSEs on a job in the City?'

Profits of doom

They say that every cloud has a silver lining and in South Africa some seem to think that the Aids virus might prove no different. For, according to the Johannesburg Sunday Times, "the inexorable march of Aids across the African continent will do wonders for copper and zinc" prices. With the virus understood to be infecting 40 per cent of the populations of Zaire and Zambia, the inference is that production could be in jeopardy unless a cure for the menacing disease is found soon. South Africa's other mining industries — coal, gold and platinum — could also be affected. Official statistics reveal that already 5 per cent of the foreign black workers employed in the country are HIV positive. In its traditional boisterous tone, the newspaper concludes, "Once again the inference is clear. The gruesome outcome of yesterday and today's sexual promiscuity could paradoxically mean tomorrow's bull market in a number of metals and minerals." Rising gold and platinum prices would, of course, also put a considerable amount of money into South Africa's Reserve Bank's vaults.

● Bright red is still America's favourite car colour. According to a survey by Dupont, 14.3 per cent of new cars in the US during the past year were red. The next favourite colour, at 13.7 per cent, was medium dark red, with white the third choice at 10.3 per cent, then black at 9.8 per cent and light blue at 8.7 per cent.

Carol Leonard

Boeing abandons Shorts discussion

Boeing, the US plane-makers, have pulled out of discussions on a possible takeover of Short Brothers.

Mr Frank Shrontz, the Boeing president, said that after studying the books of the state-owned Belfast company to establish whether it would have any part in Boeing's long-term plans, it had been decided that Boeing "did not have an interest in purchasing all or part of Shorts."

It is now hoped that an international consortium can be found to take over Shorts.

BICC buy

BICC, the cables to construction group, has bought the 37 per cent minority interest in Cable Makers Australia, the energy cable company, from General Electric Company for Aus\$70 million (£33.7 million) cash. It has also agreed the purchase of another 13.9 million shares in Metal Manufacturers from CRA, its partner, for around Aus\$40 million, giving it 62 per cent.

Suter sale

Suter, the industrial holding company, has sold an option on its 27.56 per cent stake in Avdel, the engineering company, to Banner, the US conglomerate, for £24.5 million. Banner now has the option to acquire Suter's stake — which would increase the company's total stake in Avdel to 28.54 per cent — until January 15, 1989.

CLF advance

CLF Holdings, the vehicle and computer leasing company, lifted pre-tax profits 45 per cent to £2.32 million in the six months to June. Turnover rose 59 per cent to £38.06 million and earnings per share improved 30 per cent to 7.9p, despite a double tax charge. The company declared an interim dividend of 0.73p.

Merger fails

Merger talks between BSR, the Hong Kong electronics group, and an unnamed US company, were abandoned yesterday. The merger discussions went on for several months. The company said the buyer decided for reasons unrelated to BSR that it was unable to proceed.

British move

Newmarket, a Bermuda venture capital group, plans to move its base back to Britain. The company said it had no reason to remain in Bermuda, after the suspension of exchange controls.

COMMENT

Maxwell performance lags behind ambition

Robert Maxwell's ambitions to catch up in the global media race are so grandiose that achievements usually lag behind. His interventions and attempts to strike new deals are never-ending, but the success rate is sufficiently patchy for the City to fear expansion may be more random than brilliantly opportunistic.

Yesterday's £134 million agreed bid for AGB by Pergamon Professional & Financial Services, Mr Maxwell's other piano, looks a good fit for the former Hollis group and was received with quiet satisfaction if not outright enthusiasm. Meanwhile, back at Maxwell Communication Corporation, he is still polishing the victory trumpet for possible use after his expensive pursuit of the American publishing house Macmillan. This, however, failed to deflect the market's attention from what Mr Maxwell thought were wonderful figures but others viewed as disappointing.

Whatever the apparent glamour of a one-third rise in operating profits to £50.7 million, and the assurance that the bulk of pre-tax profit was earned by the core businesses, the bottom line at MCC tells another story.

Net earnings at 8.8p a share compared with 12.6p a share previously, and year end estimates have now been generally downgraded to suggest MCC could be lucky to turn in £170 million pre-tax this

year against £166 million in 1987. The market's earlier thoughts about profits for this year were about £200 million.

These are hardly the sums to put MCC shares at the top of a buying list. That they offer an historic dividend yield of 9.4 per cent, the highest in its sector, is a message in itself.

There are already several stale bulls licking their wounds for having taken up the MCC rights issue last July at 265p a share, let alone the herd who rushed into MCC shares at their 395p peak last September, so the lack of capital growth let alone dividend growth is another cross to bear.

The rights issue provided MCC with cash to play with, but the recent results look particularly disappointing. Treasury operations — which played such a significant part in last year's total profits picture — performed badly in the first half of 1988, begging the question of what kind of genuine profits growth can be achieved by the core businesses.

Meanwhile, the Maxwell vision grows wider. Investment foundation stones continue to be laid in Europe. Additional stock market quotations to complement the recent listings in Canada and on various European bourses are planned. And more takeover deals are in the pipeline. Improved financial results might make more City investors share Mr Maxwell's dream.

More local life for Liffe

From this morning, outsiders will be able to buy one of the new "C" seats on the London International Financial Futures Exchange, which were issued by way of rights to existing members at £10,000 a time. The view from the top is that they might fetch an initial £15,000-£20,000. That compares with a current price of about £130,000 for the ordinary seats, down from a pre-crash peak of £250,000 now that broking commissions have come down.

Naturally, there is a catch. The C seats do not allow holders to trade in four of Liffe's 20 or so contracts where nearly all the (currently booming) business is done: futures on long-dated gilt-edged, American T-Bonds, three-month sterling and Eurodollar deposits. Indeed, the whole point of the 373-seat issue was to encourage trade in other contracts which have yet to take off while providing a cheaper way into the exchange for "locals" intending to trade on their own behalf.

The saving grace is that if you collect four C seats, you can convert them into one ordinary in three years time, which should create a reasonable trade in the seats. Outsiders thinking of buying one now will have to be more interested in trading in futures or currency options meanwhile. The most promising contracts appear to be the FT-SE 100 share index, Japanese government bonds and, in four weeks time, a new contract in West German bonds.

Other efforts to widen the trading base include a mission to the Continent led by David Burton, the Liffe chairman, and another to Tokyo graced by Francis Maude, the Minister for Corporate Affairs. The Inland Revenue's recent elucidation of the tax treatment of hedging may encourage more leading investment institutions to join the Prudential in trading on the market. And Liffe hopes October 1 will prove another red letter day for the six year old market. From then building societies, who expressed interest in Liffe from the start, will finally have legal sanction to use it directly. They could finally activate the contracts in short and medium-term gilt-edged, of which much was hoped but little has yet been heard.



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27/11/88

Ex dividend. = **Cash dividend**. **B** stock split. = **Ex stock split**. = **Cum** any two or more of above. = **Ex all** two or more of above. **Dealing** = **Trading**. **Dealing days**: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday.

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was same at 75.8 (day's range 75.7-75.9).

BULLION:

Open: \$427.50-428.00 Close: \$429.25-429.75
High: \$430.00-430.50 Low: \$428.00-428.50

COINS:

Per coin (Ex VA)

[illegible]

27 (2000)		Sp 107.75 No 106.10 Ja 107.95		Feb 98.3 95.8		Gr/W (+/-)	
Jan Close		Mt 110.30 Mt 112.00		Feb 98.3 95.2		Gr/W (-)	
5.0 69.5	BOYANACAM	Apr 183.5-81.5	Apr 183.5-81.5	Live Cattle Cont		Eng/W (+)	
5.0 78.3	Oct 171.0-70.2	Jun 170.0-70.0	Jun 170.0-70.0	Unq. ---		Eng/W (+/-)	
5.0 95.5	Dec 170.0-70.0	Oct ---	Oct ---	Nov ---		Gr/W (-)	
5.0 95.5	Feb 183.0-82.0	Aug 176.0-70.0	Aug 176.0-70.0	Nov ---		Gr/W (-)	
5.0 106.2		Vol 103	Vol 103	Vol Pig-24 Cattle-0		Gr/W (-)	

* Estimated dead carcass weight

TEESSIDE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By Peter Davenport

Long walk back to prosperity

Unemployment on Teesside, still twice the national average, is at last beginning to fall and industrial and business confidence in the area's future is rising

It was no accident that found Mrs Thatcher striding purposefully across an urban wasteland on Teesside when she made her tour of some of the country's most deprived inner cities and towns last September.

If nothing else, the Prime Minister knows a good photo-opportunity when it is presented to her. The racket of camera motor-drives followed her every footstep and the next day's newspapers carried the desired pictures and headlines; here was a message of hope from the very wastelands of urban Britain.

If her Government's determination to revive and regenerate the communities left behind by the buoyant economic tide was to have any justification, it had to work on Teesside, once one of the most industrially prosperous regions of the UK but of late one of its poorest.

A year later a long, slow corner towards increased prosperity is being turned; unemployment, still twice the national average, is falling, business and industrial confidence is high, land values and house prices are climbing and, a further good sign, there is a reported shortage of available factory space.

The new mood of optimism and confidence in a better future on Teesside is one that even the Prime Minister at her most optimistic could only have hoped for.

But there has been no overnight miracle on Teesside — its problems have been too deep-seated for that. Yet several factors have come together to help bring about a much longed-for improvement in the lot of its population.

Teesside is at last starting to reap some of the benefits of the economic recovery; initiatives by its local authorities are paying dividends and, perhaps most significantly of all, the Teesside Development Corporation has given the area a cohesive identity and, by its deliberately high profile, achieved a turnaround in business and commercial confidence in so short a time few would have believed possible.

For Bruce Stevenson, the chief executive of Cleveland County Council, which includes all of industrial Teesside in its area, the turnaround is long overdue.

He said: "People sometimes forget what this area went through. In five years during the Wilson Government, 20 per cent of all industrial investment in the UK went into Teesside. It was a totally dynamic area."

Then in 18 months it all came apart. Our traditional industries, steel, ship-building and chemicals, all suffered from decline. The introduction of new technology shed thousands of jobs. At its worst, unemployment went up to 23 per cent.

Accompanying those figures came social and environmental deprivation which made the job of



attracting new industries and new jobs that much more difficult.

"Of course there was deep concern but never, never despair. There was a determination to solve as much of the problem as we could with our own resources. This is not a begging bowl area and we were determined to control our own destiny."

"There was frustration, fury, disappointment and a strong sense of injustice but, overriding all that, was the absolute determination that we would not allow it to continue."

One of the original problems for Teesside was establishing a cohesive identity for itself in the national picture. Its heartland lies along the banks of the River Tees, taking in the towns of Middles-

brough, Stockton and Langbaurgh and also part of Hartlepool.

The county of Cleveland was created in the 1974 local government re-organization and, as well as the industrial boroughs, it also takes in a wide sweep of dramatic and imposing countryside that includes part of the North York Moors, many attractive villages and coastline. There are those, even today, who believe it should have been named the county of Teesside.

The area is strongly Labour and has a population of just over 550,000. Unemployment stands at 16.7 per cent, representing almost 40,000 people out of work. In the most deprived areas in Middlesbrough it can reach 30 per cent.

The economy and the skyline are still dominated by the chimneys and buildings of its traditional companies, ICI and British Steel, which, though slimmed down, are still leading employers.

Heavy engineering and fabrication works are also important local industries and the area includes such international names

as Whessoe, Trafalgar House, Davy, Cleveland Bridge and Northern Engineering Industries. There are 9,000 companies in Teesside and Cleveland, of which only 30 employ more than 500.

The area has learned the painful lesson of too much dependence on too few industries and is building for a return to future prosperity on a much wider, more diverse industrial base.

Inquiries from companies outside the region hoping to set up within Teesside and Cleveland are also rising, from 470 in 1986 to 700 so far this year.

A skilled workforce, good communications by sea, land and air, labour relations unblemished by militancy and an attractive environment within easy reach of major areas of industry, all figure in the reasons for their interest.

A recent independent survey reinforced some of those "selling points" by placing the area among the more desirable places in which to live and work.

As well as securing its traditional industries it is investing in new technologies. Both the Development Corporation and the local authorities place great emphasis on training, ensuring today's children will have the correct skills when they leave school to fill the jobs that are being attracted to the area.

Significant factors in the new technologies field are the success of the Cadcam (Computer-aided design, computer-aided manufacture) Centre and the prospects for the Belasis Hall Technology Park, a joint initiative by ICI and English Estates North on 167 acres once occupied by a medieval moated manor house.

John Hall, the north-east entrepreneur who built the Metro-Centre shopping complex at Gateshead, is also pushing ahead with his project to transform Wynyard Hall, the former seat of the Londonderry family, into a business park of international standing with high-quality housing to attract senior executives.

The area qualifies for the highest levels of government selective assistance because of its development area status. But there is a marked reluctance to push subsidy as a lure to attract new companies.

The desire that unites the Development Corporation and the local authorities, despite some initial stress in relations, is to create new and lasting jobs. Quality is the word that officials of all organizations use most often.

The revival of the area still has a long way to go — it is after all starting from a critically low base. But the new vision is of a Teesside in the year 2000 taking its fair slice of the national cake once again, with the "wilderness image" invoked by Mrs Thatcher's walk through the wasteland merely a bad memory.



Mrs Thatcher, visiting the wastelands of Teesside a year ago, said: "Where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money will follow." Duncan Hall, right, chief executive of the development corporation, is busily acting on her challenge.



After a hectic first year, the development corporation has much to celebrate

The new target is investors who will bring in jobs

Duncan Hall, the chief executive of the Teesside Development Corporation, has been in his post exactly one year today and without question it has been a hectic and effective 12 months. The increase in confidence in the area, among its people, businesses and now the investment institutions, is undoubtedly the most marked achievement.

Hall describes the change as "significant". His chairman, Ron Norman, is not quite so modest in his choice of words to sum up the success that the two men have done much to pioneer. "It is," he says, "a miraculous transformation."

"We take a long-term view about what we are to achieve in Teesside. It is a long-term regeneration of the economy, a long-term solution to unemployment. It is not a glitzy thing that can be done overnight. Our plans are long term and fundamentally sound."

Both men share a vision of a Teesside in the year 2000 that will be a vast improvement on today in terms of jobs, environment, life-style and prospects. As a first step towards achieving that aim, they have cleared the corporation on a course that has turned accepted philosophy in the field of regeneration on its head.

The traditional view of the role of a development corporation is that it amasses a large land bank, lays new roads and services, encourages subsidies and uses them to lure new investment, thereby boosting confidence.

Teesside has opted for a different course. It has identified a series of high-profile, often complex, opportunities for investors that will bring jobs and has then gone to the market-place and showed its wares from the rooftops, thus stimulating confidence as the initial benefit. It has been fortunate in not having to spend its funds on buying land; it has acted as a catalyst, persuading landowners, such as local councils and the port authority, to work together for the common good.

The double act of Norman and Hall is one that is attracting increasing attention to Teesside. They are both forceful characters with strong opinions and, it is now acknowledged, sparks were expected to fly from their pairing. However, they have proved to be a highly-effective team, generating the best from each other.

Norman, the son of a Kent postman, first went to the North-East in 1965 on a six-week assignment as a management consultant. He stayed on, becoming managing director of a big building company before launch-

ing his own specialized development firm.

Hall, aged 40, was born in Middlesbrough and returned home from his last post as chief executive of Corby in Northamptonshire, a seat he took up in 1979. A few weeks later the town's steelworks closed, throwing 13,000 out of work and sending unemployment to 35 per cent. He was a key figure in the revival of the town and has since travelled the world inspecting and advising on regeneration schemes.

He sees the Teesside Development Corporation, the largest of any created by the Government, as providing the role once taken by the large industries in the area. "The area had always had a focus — either shipbuilding, heavy engineering or chemicals companies which had a paternal focus. With the economic decline there was a need to replace that focus, to give an identity to the area and, frankly, to give a lead to it."

"In the past that lead has always come from major industry and when that decline came, that leadership and focus wasn't there."

That's the vacuum the TDC has stepped into.

They concede that after the successful promotion they now have to deliver the goods. The TDC is out to create a "necklace" of opportunities from retail, leisure, industrial and office schemes, that will provide significant numbers of jobs.

Hall uses the phrase, "a cluster of developments", each one important but gaining added significance from its impact as part of a chain. "In a sense, the increase in confidence is market-led rather than coming from the stimulation of individual developments. It is the antithesis of the original advice to the Secretary of State. The reality is that we believed Teesside was the place to be anyway, so we went to the market place and we are driving the investment and development along with that market element."

Among the schemes in hand is the creation of Hartlepool Marina, the Tees Offshore Base, and the £80 million transformation of Stockton racecourse into a covered retail and leisure complex by the Brookmount company which is expected to generate 2,000 jobs over two years.

On Mrs Thatcher's visit to Teesside, she said: "Where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money follows". It is a phrase that the corporation has adopted as its logo in all its advertising. Hall and Norman firmly believe that those facets, harnessed by the TDC, will provide the key to a better future for Teesside.

ON ROUTE TO STOCKTON-ON-TEES

ON ROUTE TO SUCCESS

Stockton is fast becoming the centre of attention in the business world and the Council is playing a vital role in creating new opportunities.

- Helps attract major companies — names such as Samsung, Tabuchi and From.
- Helping new businesses City Grants and funding from Teesside Development Corporation available.
- Providing financial support to new projects such as ICI's Belasis Hall Technology Park and Stockton's Enterprise Centre, Youth Business Centre planned.
- MARI high-tech training and research centre is now established with Council support.

Plus there's all sorts of exciting new developments in the pipeline including British Urban Development's Chemical Park at Seal Sands, Carrington Hall developments at Wynyard Park.

If Stockton has caught your attention we'd like to keep it. Contact — Tony Foulser or Diane Cutler on (0642) 670067 Ext — 2476

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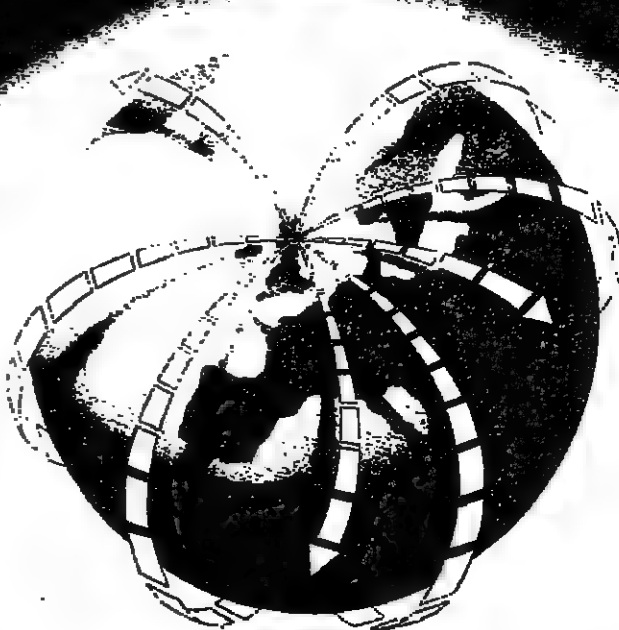
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ICI Chemicals & Polymers

WORLDWIDE FROM TEESSIDE



ICI and Teesside have shared in a successful partnership for over 60 years. Now, a challenging new era is unfolding for ICI's business operations on Teesside following the recent launch of ICI Chemicals and Polymers. This powerful new business force will enable us to develop an even stronger future on Teesside by continuing to be:

International — Our Teesside operations produce a staggering £24 billion worth of product each year, half of which is exported throughout the world.

Competitive — Since 1980 we've invested around £250 million, keeping our manufacturing plants on Teesside to world class standard, and we're planning to spend further this year on the very latest technology. The £44 million conversion to coal-firing of two boilers at our Wilton Power Station will further improve our competitive position.

Innovative — Our rapidly-expanding materials centre at Wilton near Middlesbrough is a major international ICI research and technology base.

ICI World Class

The tested industries of steel, chemicals and heavy engineering are the backbone on which the area's prosperity will be built



Reflections of industrial success: the mammoth ICI plant which it is hoped will contribute to making Teesside the chemicals capital of the world

A time to call on tradition

Though there is much activity to attract companies and new jobs to Teesside, the importance of its traditional industries, chemicals, steel and heavy engineering cannot be over-emphasized.

ICI employs about 14,000 workers and British Steel a further 7,000. Thousands more are working with such internationally renowned engineering and construction firms as the Davy Corporation, Whessoe, Cleveland Bridge and Northern Engineering Industries.

There are important developments on the horizon in many areas. ICI is placing great hopes for the future in its Wilton Materials Research Centre, which is scheduled to be opened at the end of the year and which will lead the company's worldwide scientific team in the search for new effect-materials for use in high tech areas such as the aero-space, automotive and communications fields.

A new £5 million research block will house 200 extra researchers,

including some relocated from Runcorn, as well as new recruits. It will support a further 650 scientists on Teesside and 2,000 in ICI laboratories around the world.

Dr David Clark, the laboratory director at the centre, said the aim was to make ICI the world leader in new materials development.

"The company has a long-term commitment to Teesside but it is exciting and challenging that one of the big areas for the UK nationally, as well as for ICI as a company, will be spearheaded from Teesside."

Dr Clark foresees further expansion in ICI on Teesside, with new jobs in key areas.

It is a different mood from only six years ago when, faced with a crisis caused by exchange rates and their effects on commodity chemi-

cals, the company instituted 5,000 redundancies.

Some of the company's best managers were directed to help colleagues find other jobs and there were no forced redundancies, which helped to soften the blow a little in a company which has always prided itself on its labour relations.

The crisis gave birth to the Chemicals and Polymers Group, incorporating four of ICI's major operations and now employing 38,000 people throughout the UK and Europe, with more than one-third on Teesside.

The company has invested £500 million on Teesside since 1980 with £100 million being spent this year alone, part of which is the new Materials Research Centre.

The company's impact on the local economy is enormous. Employee wages account for £170 million, profit-sharing schemes a further £10 million, pension payments £50 million, purchase of local services and materials £50 million

and it pays £18 million in local authority rates.

ICI plants on Teesside produce 8.5 million tonnes of product each year, generating 350 road movements a day in deliveries and bringing 2,000 ships a year into Teesport.

British Steel, in possibly its last full year before privatization, is also performing better than many dared imagine a few years ago.

Nine years ago the industry was in the stranglehold of a strike, its major markets dwindling away and prospects for expansion abandoned

British Steel's local record in last year

British Steel in the North-East then employed 23,000 - today that figure is down to fewer than 7,000. But it is performing excellently again and the area's output and productivity in 1987 were an all-time record, taking advantage of the

economic boom and revival of the construction industry.

Together with Scunthorpe, the Teesside works produced almost half of the 14.7 million tons of product turned out by BSC in the last financial year.

A continuing success story on Teesside is the worldwide reputation and performance of the Davy Corporation companies - Davy McKee and engineering, construction, nuclear and research and development arms.

It has successfully broken into foreign markets, particularly in the design and building of blast furnaces for iron and steel production. The company has already built two furnaces at the giant Kwangyang site in South Korea and is also to build the third, bringing the value of the contracts to £150 million.

Roger Kingdon, Davy's chief executive, believes that new opportunities lie in sophisticated industrial waste disposal, and the design and development of new mines for British Coal.

World centre for chemicals

Ever since ICI decided to locate its huge complex at Wilton more than 40 years ago, the name Teesside has been synonymous with the chemical industry. Now there are plans to build on that reputation and turn the area into the world's leading chemical centre, attracting companies from Europe and Japan.

It is part of a partnership between Teesside Development Corporation and British Urban Development, a powerful and influential £14 billion consortium of 11 of the UK's leading property, construction and civil engineering companies.

It was created in March to redevelop run-down inner city areas and regenerate local economies untouched by the national recovery.

The organization has the full backing of Mrs Thatcher and its chief executive is Hartley Booth, formerly the Prime Minister's special adviser on environment and home affairs and a senior member of the Number 10 Policy Unit.

The member companies of BUD are undoubtedly impressive. They are Alfred McAlpine, Balfour Beatty, AMEC, Costain Group, John Laing, Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, John Mowlem and Company, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow Construction, Trafalgar House Group and George Wimpey.

The chemical centre project will cover 450 acres near Seal Sands, an internationally recognized wildlife refuge with many rare birds and plants which will be preserved.

But the full partnership project involves more than just the creation of a centre producing fine and special chemicals. There will also be extensive commercial and residential development at the Middlesbrough Docks.

Based on plans already produced by Middlesbrough

Council, the Middlesbrough project will provide high-class residential and leisure facilities in an effort to attract the much-needed middle management of potential investing companies.

The whole scheme covers 6,000 acres and the public/private sector investment is expected to top £1 billion and create many hundreds of jobs.

So far, it is the largest scheme with which BUD is involved.

In June, BUD and the Teesside Development Corporation took a joint mission to Japan, headed by Mr Booth, to sell the project to the country's chemical industry. The response has been encouraging with at least nine Japanese companies intending to send representatives to view the site, and 11 others expressing interest.

That interest has also triggered positive reactions from European firms. Among the factors being emphasized to potential investors is the availability of a trained workforce, an environment that has learned to live with heavy industry, the ready provision of raw chemicals, an airport and deep-water port.

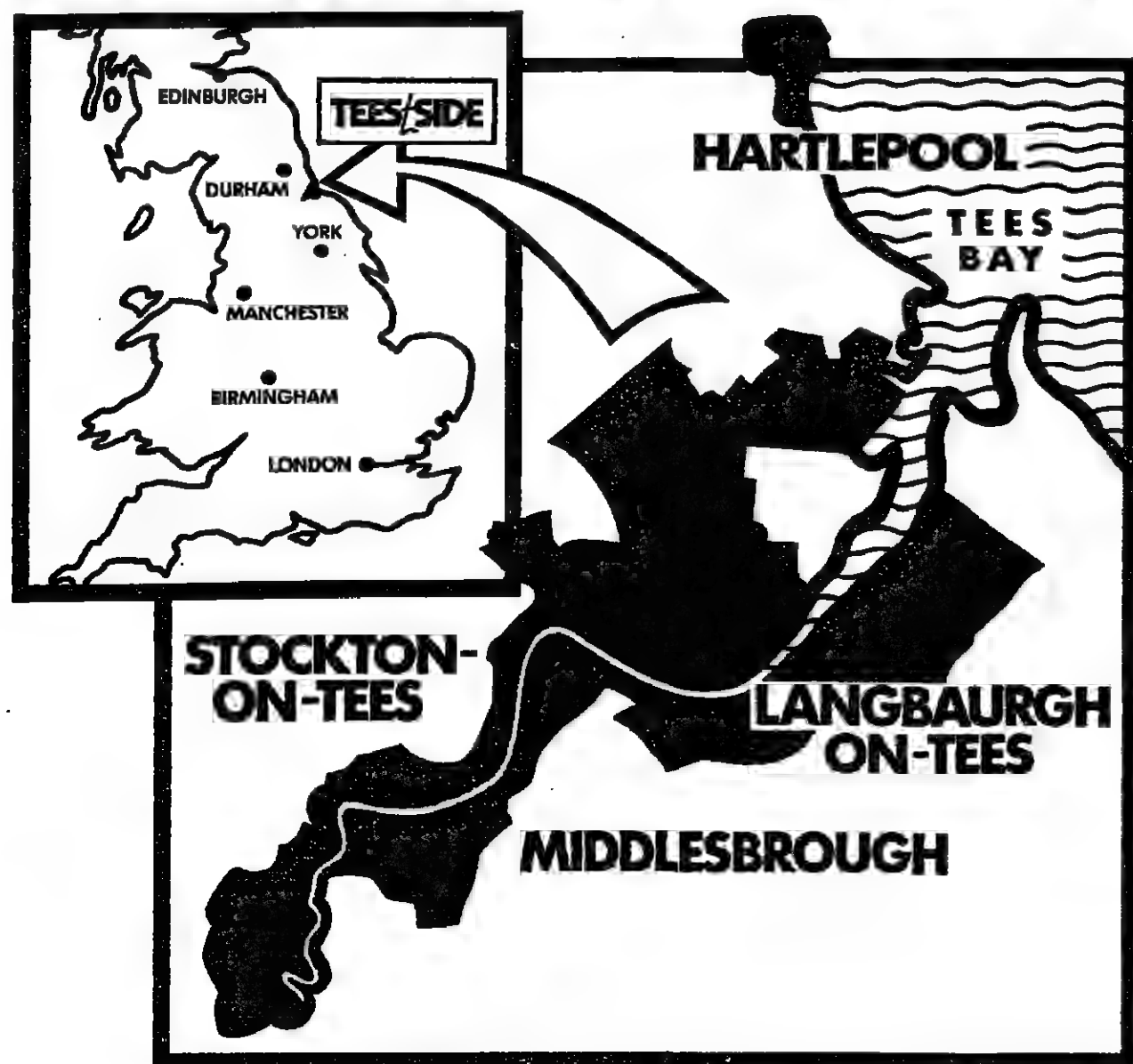
For the Japanese, there is the knowledge that the North-East is already home to more than 20 of their companies, headed by Nissan. Mr Booth hopes that Teesside will win the fierce European battle to become the recognized chemical centre in time for the Single European Market in 1992.

He expects that the centre will be operational in 18 months. He said: "We at BUD want to be the midwives to success. We want to create the reputation that Teesside will be world-beating so that in future chemical companies wanting to develop new sites won't say, 'Why go to Teesside?' but 'Why aren't we in Teesside?'"

Seal Sands, the nearby wildlife refuge for many rare birds and plants, will now be enhanced

TEES/SIDE Initiative

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Within a few months of becoming operational Teesside Development Corporation has acted as the catalyst to speed and implement a host of new initiatives. Initiatives that will enhance the industrial, business, social and cultural environment of Teesside. Initiatives in which powerful partners from the private sector are already participating. Initiatives which still offer outstanding development and investment opportunities. Among them -

At Hartlepool - the most important water-based leisure and living attraction on the North East Coast

Tees Offshore Base - a world centre of excellence in subocean technology to exploit deep-sea mineral resources **LAUNCHED**

Teesside Park - a new runner at the old Stockton racecourse, an £80 million retail, leisure, sports and conference centre **LAUNCHED**

Teesdale - an investment of over £110 million in a high quality urban mix of first class offices, residential areas and shops, in a landscaped setting

Britannia Park Enterprise Zone - one of Teesside's two EZ's, now being enhanced with new factories and infrastructure **LAUNCHED**

The European Chemical Centre - creating the finest concentration of chemical businesses in the world **LAUNCHED**

Middlehaven - a redevelopment of Middlesbrough Docks to create a high quality residential, business and leisure centre

Langbaugh Motor Sport Park - an exciting road and track based facility for a variety of two- and four-wheeled sports **LAUNCHED**

Teesside International Nature Reserve - opening up and expanding an existing world stature estuarine wildlife sanctuary

Tees walkway and weir - providing pleasant access to a tide-free river frontage

'We are setting out once again to be ahead of our time..!'

Where you have the money follow

A phoenix rises from beneath the seabed

When leaders of the major oil and offshore industries gathered in London to hear of plans to establish the Tees Offshore Base at the forefront of their technology, it fell to Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy, to deliver the Government's enthusiastic support.

It was a particularly poignant moment. As Minister of State for Industry, he had had to endorse the decision to close the former British Shipbuilders' yard at Smith's Dock, the last shipbuilding yard on the Tees, the site on which the new base was being created.

"The new offshore base," he said, "is a phoenix arising from what was a very unpleasant but necessary decision."

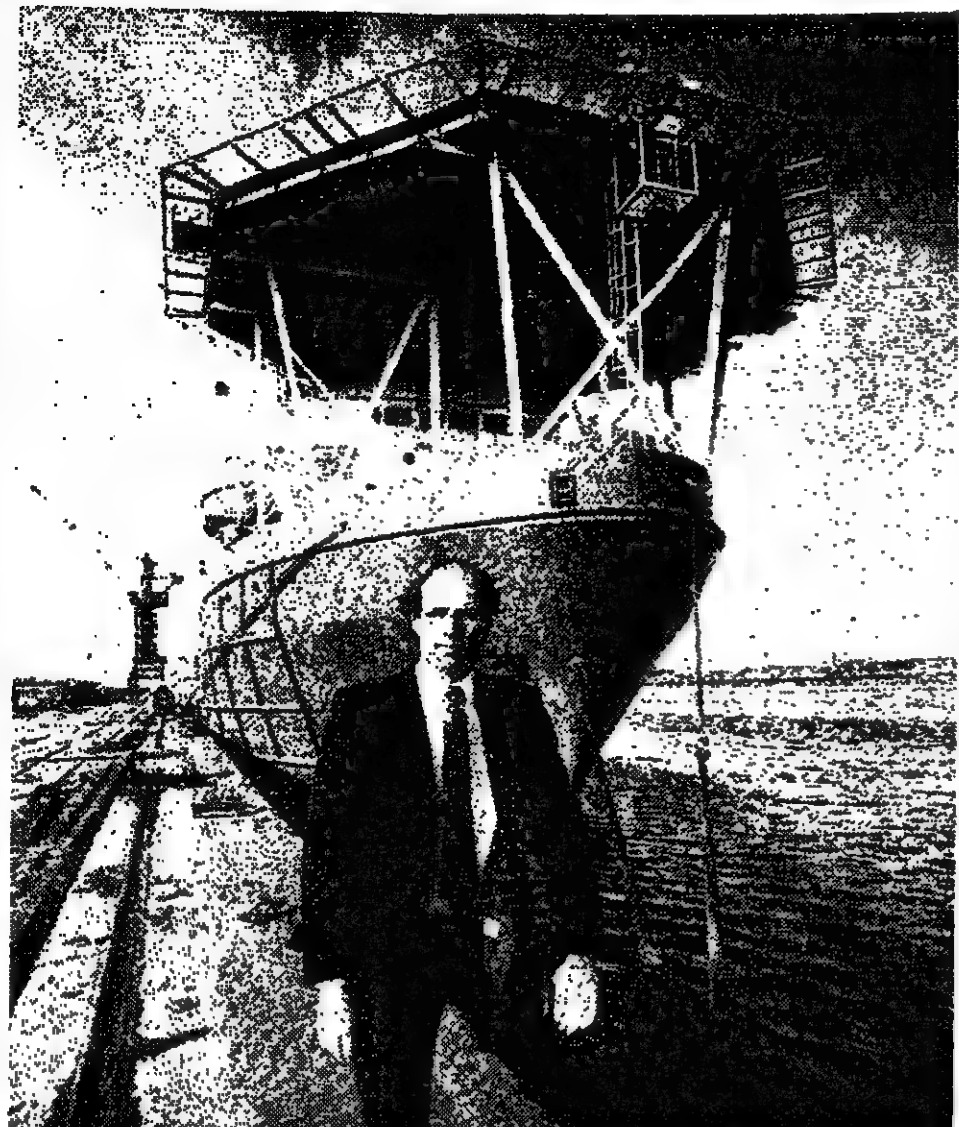
That it is ready for expansion has since become evident. The base is already in use by several big companies, creating 500 new jobs, with the prospect of another 1,000 over the next few years.

British Telecom Marine is to develop a full offshore operation facility and LV Shipping is to use the site to expand its offshore supply industry. Marathon Oil UK has also moved on to the site — an operation that required some 247 lorry and trailer loads, weighing 5,000 tonnes, — and is to spearhead its next project, Central Brae in the North Sea, from the new location. It will be the company's first underwater development.

Negotiations are also understood to be in hand with several other manufacturing companies which want to establish a presence in the base.

The ambitious attempt to become the world's leading centre in sub-ocean technology began with a £10 million investment by the Teesside Development Corporation and the local port authority. It has already physically transformed the old shipbuilding yard.

Over the next five years a further private-sector investment of up to £250 million is expected to be injected into the site by leading international companies engaged in the highly-competitive



Innovative: Charles Tomkins, of Northern Offshore Services, a leader in sub-ocean technology

world of mineral extraction from beneath the sea bed.

The intention is to establish a unique centre whose separate resident companies will each possess individual skills and abilities but will also be able to operate as expert consortiums dedicated to winning lucrative, but complex, sub-ocean contracts around the world.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the market for systems, equipment and services to exploit underwater energy resources over the next 20 years stands

at £170 billion with the wider market worth much more.

Charles Tomkins, the managing director of Northern Offshore Services, which is developing the base on behalf of the TDC, says the UK has not produced a significant, enduring industrial base out of the off-shore market but the future sub-ocean market is providing a second chance.

A majority shareholding in Northern Offshore Services has recently been acquired by Cable & Wireless, a move seen as a vote of confidence in the future of the Tees base and its

role in sub-ocean technology.

Smith's Dock and 60 adjoining acres were acquired by the TDC and the port authority last autumn and £1 million was immediately spent on demolishing derelict buildings, renovating others to provide up-to-date facilities as well as a new system of roads.

There will be berthing facilities for semi-submersibles, expanded service and construction operations and a underwater research and development centre with an environmental testing facility, is due to be working next spring.

Port reaches record profits

Significant increases in tonnage handled at Tees and Hartlepool has confirmed it as Britain's third largest port. Potential industrial regeneration holds out the prospect of even greater growth.

In 1987 the port handled 33.5 million tonnes, compared with 30.27 million tonnes in the previous year. It was the highest level of business for five years and led to record profits of £10.02 million, an increase of 32 per cent over the figures for 1986.

Figures just produced for the first six months of this year reinforce the trend of continuing success and the air of confidence within the authority. Overall tonnage is up by 14 per cent on the same period last year.

John Hackney, the chief executive of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, says the intention now is to expand and diversify activities to consolidate the buoyant business base.

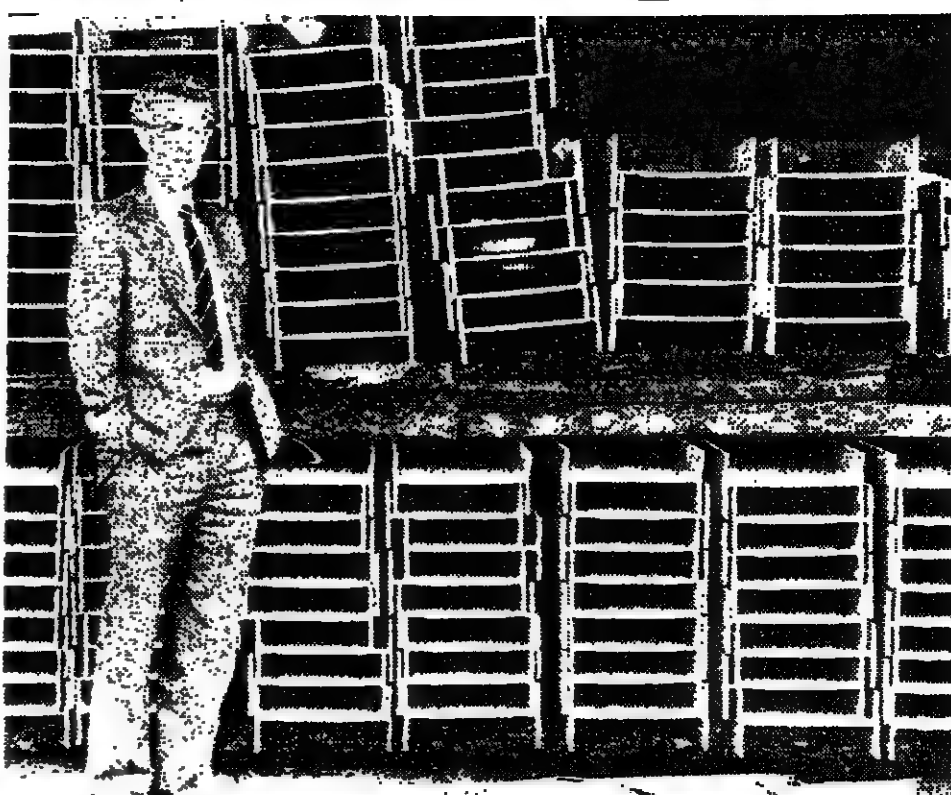
This involves a strategy to make the most of vast areas of under-used land holdings to help to generate further port traffic and associated industry. Part of the strategy has been to acquire a £1.5 million property portfolio to help to supply the expertise and experience needed to develop the land it owns to the best possible advantage.

The port authority has established a close working relationship with the Teesside Development Corporation, launching several major developments in partnership, including the Tees Offshore Base — a commercial, retail and housing scheme at the disused Middlesbrough Dock, and the ambitious Hartlepool Marina project.

The turnaround in the fortunes of the port has come after a decade in which many of its activities were at a standstill or losing money. Tees Dock, which had not made a profit since 1963, has now recorded profits of £1.29 million and fell only one shipload short of handling two million tonnes a year.

For the first time, exports through its specially-equipped steel terminal topped one million tonnes.

In the 14 years it has been in operation, 84 per cent of all the steel handled by the terminal has been produced in



Tons of success: John Hackney, of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, at the docks

More expansion planned to cope with the boom

the nearby Teesside works of British Steel.

The terminal is the most advanced of its kind in the UK, rivaling Rotterdam and Antwerp for efficiency, and a quarter of all British Steel exports pass through it.

As well as steel, Tees Dock handles a wide range of cargoes, including grain, potash, coal, general goods from West Africa, Brazil and India, and roll on, roll off traffic to Poland and Sweden.

A £400,000 grain-handling terminal is a new specialized service.

Oil and gas is shipped out of the Tees. Phillips Petroleum has a handling capacity of one million barrels of crude a day from the Ekofisk field at its Teesside terminal, an operation which brings in £2 million a year in harbour dues for the port authority.

And then there is Nissan.

For 16 years, long before it built its plant in the North-East, the company has been shipping its vehicles through the port, a relationship which resulted in a £2 million purpose-built terminal being opened earlier this year.

There is now the prospect of increased exports of Nissan cars to Europe. Work has already started on a £500,000, 12-acre terminal which is scheduled to start up soon.

Initially the port will handle 30,000 Bluebirds a year but that figure will double when the company begins producing the Micra model for export at its Washington factory.

Teesside's traditional petrochemical industry, with names such as ICI, Phillips Petroleum and BASF ensures that it remains the UK's premier port in terms of the tonnage and variety of bulk liquids passing through.

Hartlepool Docks also in-

creased the amount of tonnage handled to 1.17 million tonnes a year and is poised to push the figures even higher with a £4.5 million investment programme, including straightening and deepening the approach to its Victoria Harbour to cater for vessels up to 20,000 tonnes.

The reputation of the workforce in the port is excellent; absenteeism is less than 3 per cent, the best attendance record in the country, and new flexible working agreements have been signed which will allow an interchange of skills between crafts.

Mr Hackney now looks to the future with confidence. "We are very pleased indeed with the figures for the first six months of this year. We expected an increase similar to that achieved. We are delighted that, despite the unpredictability of port business, our high standard of performance has kept us in line with our forecasts."

"We expect that our increases will not be so significant in the second part of the year but there is no reason, however, why we should not stay on course for another profitable year."

Talent

Talent abounds on Teesside. The talent of an industrial and commercial base established for over a century. The talent of giant corporations and of smaller specialist enterprises. The talent of Teessiders — whose skills reach right across heavy and light engineering, chemical and petrochemicals engineering, metals production and application, major port and oil terminal operation, computer exploitation, food technology and design, research and development, and professional services of every kind. Talent expressing itself in —

ICI's Wilton plastics and petrochemicals site which includes Europe's largest petrochemicals complex and ICI's Materials Research Centre

British Steel's 3,000 acre plant operating Europe's largest blast furnace, producing three million tonnes of steel a year

Davy McKee's engineering and construction organisation serving the world's iron, steel and metal forming industries

BASF Chemicals' Seal Sands plant producing raw materials for acrylic and nylon fibres and engineering plastics production

Phillips Petroleum's North Sea terminal, handling every drop of oil from the Ekofisk fields, and processing, storing and loading it to tankers

Europe's biggest CAD/CAM centre — on Middlesbrough enterprise Zone — and Middlesbrough Polytechnic's CAD/CAM capability

RHM Foods' and other specialists' food and drinks development

Nissan's purpose-built terminal through which the bulk of its Japanese-made vehicles are distributed direct to UK dealers — and its UK production exported

Redpath Offshore, Whessoe and Davy Offshore, module makers to North Sea oilfields, poised for the future challenge

Davy Forge's advanced metals production techniques, meeting the exacting needs of aerospace, defence and medical technology

Ability

The biggest of them all, with great powers of control over 19 square miles of land, Teesside Development Corporation has the ability to harness Teesside's many strengths and place them at the service of investors and developers. The Development Corporation has an enthusiastic and representative Board drawn from every section of the community — including Local Authorities which have laid much of the foundation of new industry and facilities on which the TDC is building. Among Teesside's multiple strengths —

The commitment to its renewal programme of major development and investment forces: British Urban Development, Brookmount, Lovell Partnerships, Murray International, Positel, Trafalgar House, Taylor Woodrow, AMEC, Sir Alfred McAlpine, BICC, Costain, John Laing, Mowlem, Tarmac, Wimpey McLean Homes, Bellway Urban Renewals

The UK's second largest port in volume of trade handled — and the North East's principal gateway to and from Europe and the rest of the world

Through its port and excellent motorway and rail links, command of a massive population market in the UK and on the European mainland

A vote of confidence from major foreign investors. Already established on Teesside — companies from Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands and the USA

A lifestyle, derived from a compelling partnership of urban amenity and easy access to incomparable coast and countryside, voted near the top of the UK league table

All the financial incentives implied in Teesside's continuing status as a Development Area with two Enterprise Zones. Plus European community grant and loan opportunities

To find out more about Teesside's Initiative, Talent and Ability: Contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636.

TEESSIDE

Initiative Talent Ability

'...where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money follows'

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, Teesside, 16 September 1987

£100m boat haven for the old docks

For too many years, the image conjured up by the name Hartlepool was that of a football team which appeared perpetually to be propping up the entire Football League from its place at the bottom of the Fourth Division. Now that image, which seemed to reflect a dull, workaday town, is about to change.

Hartlepool is embarking on an ambitious venture that will put it at the heart of a more affluent market.

Work is expected to start later this year on a £200 million scheme to create a 1,000-berth marina out of 59 acres of the town's South Docks, formerly used for the shipment of coal and steel exports, a once thriving trade which declined over the last century.

Marinas have become a regular feature of regeneration schemes throughout the country over the last decade.

Further down the east coast, the port of Hull has transformed its former fish docks into an elegant and much-used haven for hundreds of expensive yachts and pleasure craft.

Those behind the Hartlepool project — called "a marina and much more" — point out, however, that north of Suffolk there is no yacht or powerboat marina with such potential capacity anywhere on the east coast of England or Scotland.

marina at Hartlepool, a town with a seafaring tradition dating back centuries, but which has become more famous lately for the restoration of historic vessels such as the Warrior, the first ironclad warship, is more than just another similar development.

It is a signal to the outside world that this part of the North-East is shedding its dull image and has a faith in its future prosperity.

The scheme, which is a joint development by the Teesside Development Corporation and the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, which is contributing £10 million, will also provide housing and commercial activity as well as the establishment of an important maritime heritage project.

Those who may have secretly scoffed at the viability of such a venture, thinking perhaps that it was more suited to the more affluent South, had to think again when a long list of potential developers and investors re-

sponded to tender invitations.

In the end, the list was narrowed down to two — Crest Nicholson, a £200 million group based in Surrey, and the eventual winners, the Lovell Group of Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Lovell's has wide experience in waterfront redevelopment, undertaking 10 such schemes in the last few years.

The firm is involved in the Salford Docks project as well as a marina scheme in London and has recently been selected to create a £40 million marina and maritime village at Barry in South Wales.

David Hinton, the chairman of Lovell Partnerships, which has teamed up with the architects Halliday Meecham for the development, which will realize a 25-year dream for Hartlepool, said: "Our considerable experience of waterfront projects in particular, and urban regeneration generally, will enable us to make the most of this very exciting and major addition to Hartlepool."



Geoff Sadler, coordinator of the £5 million Langbaugh circuit

Motor racing gets new track

The roar of racing car engines will replace the noise of blast furnaces when the first purpose-built motorsport complex since the Second World War is completed on Teesside.

A £600,000 grant from the Teesside Development Corporation has provided the initial funding for the £5 million Langbaugh Motor Sport Park, which is being created from 75 acres of industrial wasteland, formerly a British Steel site, on the south bank of the Tees.

The 1.5 mile circuit is expected to be operational by 1990 and will accommodate classes up to Formula Three racing. Already a half-mile go-kart racing track has been completed, and events started last month.

As well as motor racing, the circuit will provide driver training facilities, motocross, skid pan, BMX track and terrain for competitions for off-road vehicles.

The project is being co-ordinated by Langbaugh Council, which began considering how to use the derelict site several years ago. Orig-

inally, the main idea was to provide a facility for local motorcycle enthusiasts but it developed rapidly from there.

Geoff Sadler, the project coordinator, said: "We looked at a map of the motor-racing circuits in England and saw there was a gap. We believe that not only will we be providing a local and regional facility but also a national centre."

Those behind the scheme believe the new circuit will fill the gap between Donington in the Midlands and Ingliston in Scotland.

The project has attracted the backing of the main motor sport controlling bodies and it is hoped that private sector investment will be forthcoming now that the first phases are complete and in use.

One advantage of creating a circuit from scratch, rather than adapting some existing facility, such as a redundant airfield, has been that all the latest safety standards can be incorporated in the design, and it is hoped to attract events both of national and international calibre.



The decision to create a Teesside craftsman returning a ship to its former glory

BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION

DRIVE FOR TOTAL QUALITY

As the steel quality standards required by our customers become ever more demanding, there is a continuing need to establish Total Quality in our operations.

At British Steel's Teesside Works we have already scored a major success in that direction, gaining Lloyds Register Quality Assurance Approval in September 1987.

To build on this success and to improve our quality and service to customers even further, 1987 saw the launch of the Total Quality Performance programme, an investment priority for raising the levels of skill and expertise of our workforce yet again.

We have introduced a Total Quality Performance programme which will ensure that everyone working in British Steel's Teesside Works is trained and has a complete understanding of his or her contribution to the overall success of the business.

British Steel BSC General Steels

British Steel Corporation, BSC General Steels, Commercial Division - Sections, PO Box 24, Steel House, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 5QL. Telephone 0642 474242.

GENERAL STEELS TEESSIDE WORKS

Growing pride in the Poly

The flagship of higher education on Teesside is Teesside Polytechnic, which has forged itself a deserved national reputation, particularly in computing science, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing techniques.

A symbol of that recognition comes next week when the Polytechnic hosts the second international short course on Computer Aided Design and Construction, followed by a major exhibition.

The Polytechnic, one of only four in the country which does not sit cheek-by-jowl with a university, is establishing a reputation as a leader in information technology.

Each year it spends about 75 per cent of its capital budget, around £450,000, on computer equipment alone. Space for computer teaching takes up a third of the buildings on its Middlesbrough campus, and last year £1.1 million was spent on an information technology complex.

The Polytechnic is also now working with the Teesside Development Corporation on several projects, including a survey to establish the training needs of local business. It is a member of Higher Education Support for Industry in the North (Hesin), a project in which five centres of higher

Links with industry go back to the 1920s

education in the region are joining together to expand their influence on economic growth. Other partners are Durham and Newcastle universities and the polytechnics at Newcastle and Sunderland.

The organization was formed five years ago to make its members' skills in science and technology more readily available to industry and it has proved to be successful.

The Polytechnic's links with industry go back to its foundation in the 1920s. Today it has 3,600 full-time students and a similar number of part-time. It has 11 departments and a School of Information Engineering, formed only a year ago but already earning a redoubtable reputation. Early next year, the departments of Business and Management Studies will merge to become the Teesside Business School.

Like other polytechnics, Teesside faces the end of local government control in April next year, a move which will bring greater independence. Any worries that the move will weaken the close ties with the local community on which Teesside Polytechnic prides itself are strongly countered.

The other event on the horizon which offers new and exciting opportunities, according to Dr Oliver Coulthard, the deputy director, is the introduction of the Single European Market in 1992.

Dr Coulthard and his colleagues are already looking at integrating European requirements, including languages, into their courses to make them marketable in the rest of the Community.

One of the results of the polytechnic's skill at innovation is the development of a revolutionary new type of emergency fire tender.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR MORE SIGNATURES.

Roger McKenna

Roger McKenna, Chairman, Derwent Valley Foods Ltd, Consett. Work on leader with Phileas Fogg snacks in 7 years.

E. Bostwick

Ernie Bostwick, Chairman, Isocom Ltd, Hartlepool. In 5 years has become market leader in hi-tech products.

Mike Powell

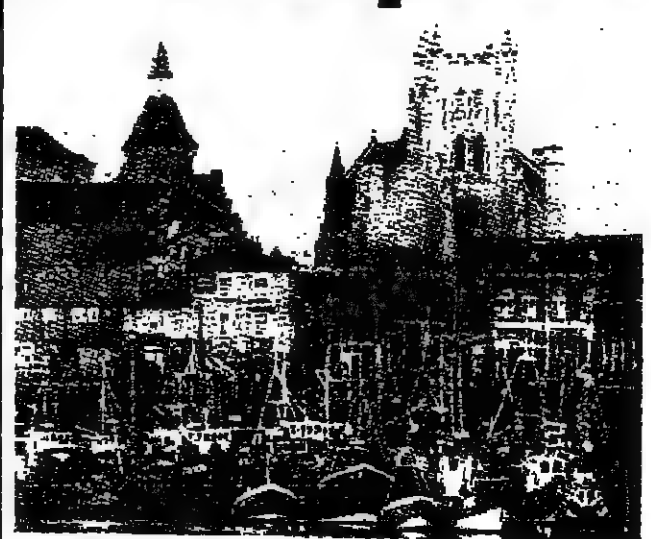
Mike Powell, M.D., Teesside Module Engineering Ltd, Teesside. Expansion of offshore module cladding into onshore office construction.

We are helping achievers like these succeed. And we're always looking for more in Derwentside, Hartlepool, Teesside and West Cumbria. If you're determined to succeed our range of financial support, advice and back-up services could help. So call Consett (0207) 591000 for further information.

BSC industry

Regional Office for Northern Region, Templeton, Knitsley Lane, Consett, County Durham DH8 7PQ.

Hartlepool



FACT.

This is a major industrial and commercial centre offering the best business development incentives in the U.K.

For all the facts contact: R. Kroll, Economic Development Officer, Hartlepool Borough Council, 210, Central, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS24 8AZ. Tel: 0429 266522.

THE ROAD TO AN UNBEATABLE PACKAGE BY LAND, SEA & AIR

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

September 1 1988

The interview is a stressful experience for candidates. The job appeals and the applicant has won an interview — no small achievement these days. Yet she thinks that all the important cards are in the interviewer's hand.

The prospective employer decides who and how many will conduct interviews; what questions or tests the candidate must tackle, and he has the ultimate sanction of rejection or making a job offer.

The candidate can be excused for identifying with the gladiator in the Colosseum. (For the sake of clarity the interviewer is referred to as male and the candidate as female.)

In reality, the interviewer also carries his share of stress. The consequences of selecting an applicant who proves to be unsatisfactory are very costly in time, money and lost opportunities. Thus the interviewer's own reputation and position is at stake.

This is particularly valid when a recruitment agency is being employed by a client company. The person conducting the interview will try to protect himself by testing the candidate's competence to do the job; by identifying that the personal "chemistry" is right, and by establishing that the post is totally acceptable to the applicant.

By the use of questions, the interviewer will look for the reassurance he needs to protect himself from error.

The candidate who understands

Anatomy of an interview: what a candidate reveals

Robert Bertram, right, an employment counsellor, analyses motives behind the questions



what lies behind the interviewer's questions will be able to phrase her answers in a way that will support her candidature by providing the reassurance that the interviewer needs.

Questions that probe why the candidate applied for the vacancy are an invitation to reassure the interviewer, by explaining how skills, experience, qualifications and achievements will enable the candidate to do the job successfully.

Such questions represent an opportunity to "sell oneself" with enthusiasm. And enthusiasm transmitted to the interviewer will dissipate some of the stress, and set the scene for a constructive interview.

Questions concerning qualities of management and relationships are testing the individual's leadership characteristics — whether a "natural" leader or a number two; whether authoritarian or democratic; production or people-orientated.

When the candidate is asked about her greatest achievement or

challenge, the interviewer is probing her track record and standards, and relating these to the post to be filled.

Inquiries about previous budget responsibility, number of staff managed, and increases in profit, sales or production are also part of this process.

Vital to the interviewer is reassurance that the candidate will "fit" the prospective employer's "culture". He will ask questions which will enable him to gauge the significance of achievement, of decisiveness, self-organization and experience, as well as the personal values relating to colleagues — leadership, recognition, independence, conformity, support and caring.

Asking the applicant to describe her strengths, aptitudes and ambitions invites disclosure of personal values. Seeking an acknowledgement of weaknesses, mistakes, tasks that could have been done better, or opportunities

missed, is intended to gauge self-awareness, intellectual honesty, maturity and dependability.

The interviewer will try to assess relationships with colleagues by forming a view of the candidate's personality — whether she is social or self-contained, conforming or independent, extrovert or sensitive, phlegmatic or excitable.

Questions about people relationships, friendships, what you think your staff think of you and big fish — small pond and vice versa fall within this area.

The applicant must be prepared for "pressure" questions — "Are you redundant?" "Have you ever been passed over for promotion?" In addition to gauging her ability to cope with stress, the interviewer is testing the maturity and emotional stability of the candidate, as well as trying to uncover any resentments that may lurk.

The interviewer needs to appraise the candidate's aptitudes — numerical, verbal, creative, practical, people-orientated, methodical. "What kind of work would

you ideally like to do?" "If you had your time over again, what career would you choose?" "Tell me about your outside interests?" "What are your strengths?"

Such questions are intended to help the interviewer make this appraisal.

Closely allied are such questions as "What do you know about us?" "What attracts you to us?" "What in the job appeals to you?" The answer is the candidate's opportunity to demonstrate that she has researched the prospective employer thoroughly.

A candidate who, by her answer, is able to show that she recognizes a challenge which the prospective employer faces is impressive indeed.

The interviewer may be satisfied that he has identified the most suitable candidate, but that is only half of his task. Unless the candidate is equally satisfied, the wrong person has been chosen. The interviewer puts himself at risk if he leaves this consideration entirely to the applicant. She may be so eager to secure a

job offer that she temporarily debases the rewards she requires only to rue the day at a later stage. "What additional information about the job/terms and conditions would you like to know?" "What more can we tell you about us?" "Have you discussed this post with your husband?" "What is your domestic situation?" "What effect will the travel required have on your home life?"

Such questions provide the candidate with the opportunity to make enquiries which not only solicit information, but also throw light on the candidate's values. For example, undue concentration on terms and conditions is likely to leave the impression that the candidate is more interested in what she gets than what she contributes.

If in the slightest doubt, the applicant should not hesitate to ask a question. In addition to clarification as to what the interviewer is driving at, the question gives the candidate time for

thought and also redresses the balance of the dialogue, which again benefits both parties, by reducing the stress level.

"Where do you see yourself in X years?" "What is your career plan?" While the interviewer is trying to match the candidate to the post, such questions provide a further opportunity to illustrate the research undertaken into the prospective employer's business, combined with the chance to enquire about policy on further training, the corporate structure and scope for advancement.

Questions relating to salary — "What remuneration do you expect?" "How important is salary to you?" "Are you prepared to accept a lower salary?" — will throw light on the candidate's negotiating ability, self-esteem, family circumstances and how the individual assesses the job satisfaction-reward equation.

A productive interview is an exploration by two interested parties into an individual's all-round capability of fulfilling a given role — although it never looks like this through the candidate's eyes!

She needs to remember that the experience is also critical for the interviewer. Efforts to understand each other's needs will lead towards an objective exploration and to the most mutually satisfactory outcome possible.

● The author is an independent counsellor working with managers who are redundant or facing early retirement unwillingly. Tel: Amersham (0494) 722551

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Australia's leading fund raising company with offices in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and Africa needs first class Consultants to manage programmes on behalf of an increasing number of prestigious international clients.

Applicants should have a successful business background with skills in Marketing and Management as well as a personal history of Community Service.

Consultants should:

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Remuneration in keeping with the importance of the position will be negotiated with successful applicants.

If you are looking for new challenge, identifiable achievements, self satisfaction and tangible rewards, please write to:

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Deputy Managing Director
Everald Compton International
Heathcote
Tilston Road
Malpas
Cheshire SY14 7DB
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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

We are the leading consultants specialising in the travel industry. Our clients include virtually all the major companies in travel. The sectors we cover are tour operators, travel agents, hotels, airlines, conference centres and various tourist facilities. Established for four years' with offices in the West End of London, sustained growth has created the opportunity for further consultants to join the team.

You will be an experienced recruitment consultant, sales orientated and able to develop our client contacts. We will introduce you to a portfolio of clients and assignments. Previous experience in one or more of our industry sectors will be an advantage. You should be literate and able to write advertising copy.

We offer a competitive salary and a performance-related bonus. Your success will lead to participation in the company profit-share scheme.

Write with a full c.v., recent photograph and current salary to: Box No. A17.

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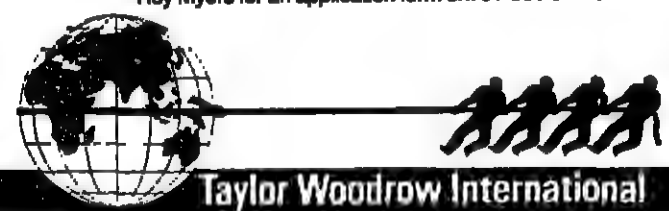
"Los Castillos" is a unique concept of residential apartments in southern Spain, currently being developed by Taylor Woodrow International Limited.

The properties are direct sale only, and we are seeking a top-class Negotiator to sell this luxury development to clients in Spain. The successful candidate will be a key team member, and should have a proven track record in negotiating property sales.

This local appointment requires someone with drive and personality, and who must also possess the ability to communicate with clients at the highest level.

We are offering an attractive salary plus commission on sales, together with a company car.

Please send full CV to: Taylor Woodrow International Limited, Western House, Western Avenue, London W5 1EU, or telephone Roy Myers for an application form on: 01-891 3218.



RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Further expansion demands that we appoint another dynamic and motivated achiever. You will either have recruitment experience or have a good track record to date combined with sales ability and commercial awareness.

Preferred age 25-35. Package £18000 - £32000 + car option. Ambition and ability will result in high earnings, bonus scheme and career prospects within a developing group recruiting accountants and financial people for Commercial and Professional firms and the City.

We have a flourishing Thames Valley Office and would always be keen to meet Managers/Consultants with a view to opening other offices.

If you would like to work in a professional but entrepreneurial environment, telephone or write to Brian Ingram, Managing Director, on 01 629 3555 (or between 7.30pm - 9.30pm 01-458 5313).

Brian Ingram Associates
70/71 New Bond Street, London W1 9DE

Marketing Manager SALARY PACKAGE TO £20,000+benefits

CAPITA is a Group of rapidly growing service companies that specialises in the public sector. Business development in all areas of our operations, from IT and management consultancy to systems design, and from training to contract staffing, is running well ahead of the ambitious plans we laid down. In local and central government, the health service and utilities, CAPITA is now one of the largest independent groups and we plan to continue our fast growth. A flotation on the USM is targeted for early 1989.

To help us achieve this we are now looking for an experienced PR and marketing professional with a proven track record of achievement to take charge of our corporate image building, including publicity, brochure production, visual aids, exhibitions and product launch campaigns. Working to a Group Director, you will also be responsible for supporting and advising subsidiary company managers both in our London headquarters and in our regional offices. This is an exceptional opportunity for the right person to achieve rapid success in a dynamic environment.

Please apply with full CV to Mike Burr, Group Marketing Director:

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Telephone: 01-799 1525

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8 fully qualified and letter confirmed appointments are guaranteed to our Sales Personnel every week

We would expect your on target commission to be in excess of

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per annum

for further information or to arrange a personal interview phone - Marketing Director

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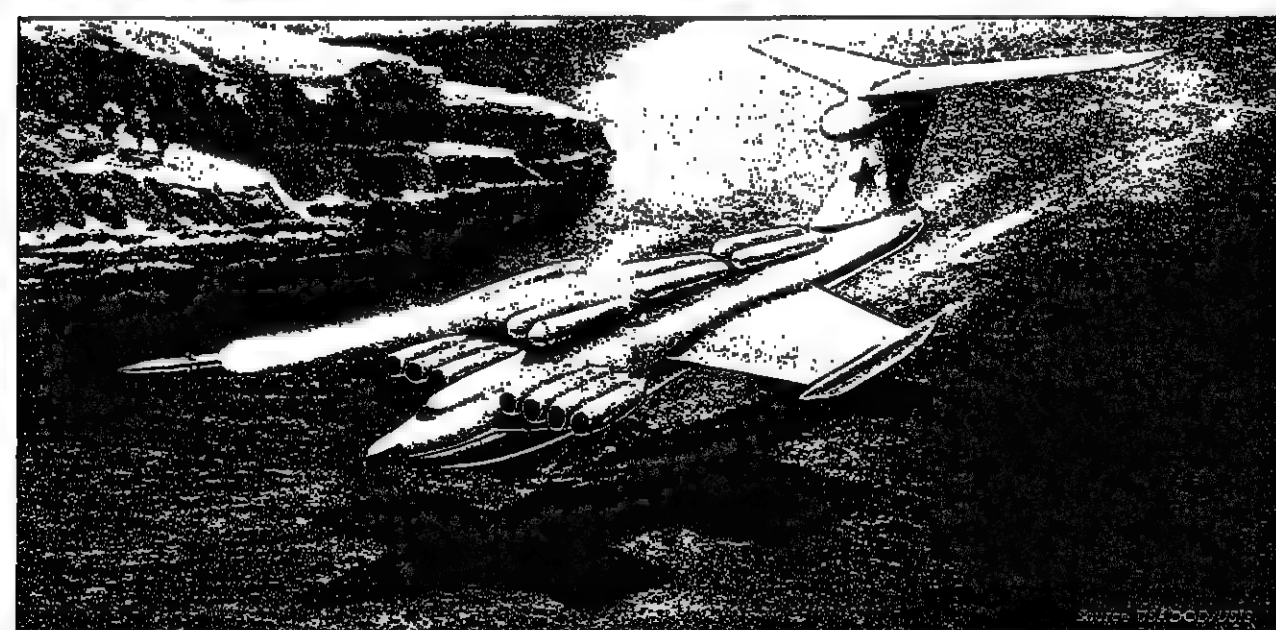
THE SALESPERSONS DREAM

1. Continuity of quality leads.
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We don't want dreamers, we want DOERS. Bring your enthusiasm, we'll deliver the rest. We are a direct selling manufacturing company with a nationwide network of 30 offices. We are also very selective. Car owners only need apply.

Call the Head of Training Development for appointment on 01-349 0575 up to 8pm on 1st - 2nd September.

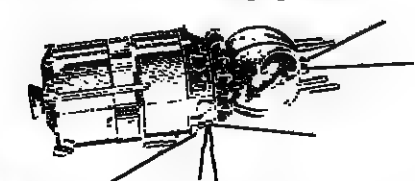


An artist's impression of the new Soviet Utkin-class aircraft (known to fly below the latest radar systems, potentially capable of carrying an anti-rocket missile laser).

IF IT MOVES IT MATTERS.

With modern technology it is possible to spot an aircraft taking off 5,000 miles away. Or detect a new satellite long before it reaches orbit.

Even a submarine, when it's 2,000 feet below, can be seen changing course.



When you're a Fighter Controller you can watch all these things moving. So you do, because where the safety of your nation is concerned nothing must be left to chance. We do it every minute of every day.

So could you.

As an integral part of the men and women of the RAF's Fighter Control Branch your duties could include the plotting, tracking and identification of unknown aircraft. (Our Identification and Reporting Officers have to do this in less than two minutes.)

Once that's successfully done, it could be your turn to act.

As an Intercept Controller you may be allocated a scrambled Tornado F3, from the Quick Reaction Alert Force, to guide to the target.

From that moment, until interception, the pilot is in your hands.

You're responsible for directing his course. You're responsible for anticipating how the target might react. You have to make the split-second decision that will place the Tornado in a position where positive identification (and possibly engagement) can take place safely.

In the words of one of our controllers

"...it's just like being the third person in the cockpit. Could you handle it?"

WHAT'S MORE

Officers of RAF Fighter Control Branch are also responsible for manning Ballistic Missile Early Warning Systems, satellite surveillance and the operation of surface-to-air missiles up and down the UK. In fact, wherever there is potential danger, RAF Fighter Control Officers are at the forefront of Britain's defences.

In the early 1990s you may be asked to join the mission crew in the new Boeing E3 AEWs.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Suppose, then, that you apply and are accepted. What will we give you in return?

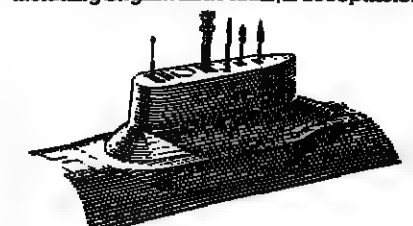
A competitive salary, for a start, with plenty of scope for promotion. Unrivalled sports, leisure and social activities too. Not to mention the opportunity to travel.

As part of your career progression you will have opportunities to develop your leadership and management skills to fit you for senior executive appointments.

But, above all else, you'll have the knowledge that should something threaten us, it will matter that you are there.

WHAT NOW?

Both men and women, aged between 17½ and 30 years, may apply to join as Fighter Control Officers. Ideally, you should have a degree or 'A' levels, but a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C (or equivalent) including English and Maths is acceptable.



To find out more, fill in the coupon below and either post it or bring it along with you when you visit your local RAF Careers Information Office (in the phone book under Royal Air Force).

The Armed Forces are Equal Opportunity Employers under the terms of The Race Relations Act 1976.

Please send me more information about a career as an RAF Officer.

Post to: Group Captain Peter Canning, (FN) Officer Careers (06/29/08), Stannmore HA7 4PZ.

Full name (Mr, Mrs, Ms) _____

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Present or intended qualifications _____



01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Over to you.

The people we're recruiting as **Dealer Account Managers** take on a unique liaison responsibility for the company, building the bridge between IBM and Authorised Dealers and ensuring both parties are enjoying the full benefits of the partnership. Most of all, of course, you'll work to ensure that our customers are getting the solutions they need.

The core of the role is in sales, marketing, forecasting and training, with your management and planning skills very much to the fore. You'll probably be in your late 20s, educated to degree level or similar and have at least 5 years' successful sales, marketing or commercial experience - gained in a large-company environment, though not necessarily in the computer business.

There are vacancies for Dealer Account Managers throughout Southern England - all of them offering excellent incentive-based rewards and benefits, as well as the outstanding long-term career prospects you'd expect from one of the country's leading companies, at a time of growth and rapid development. And isn't that the sort of opportunity worth thinking about?

Please write with full C.V. to: Jane Miller, Central Recruitment Office, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 32, Alencon House, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 1EJ.

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idaf INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE & AID FUND for Southern Africa

Require a Special Fund Raising Executive on a 12 month contract, to develop contacts, mainly in the Nordic countries.

Suitable applicants will have:

- Knowledge of the current situation in Southern Africa and a demonstrable commitment to the cause of liberation from apartheid;
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- Administration experience

Salary: £15,000

Apply by letter with curriculum vitae to:
The Director, IDAF, Canon Collins House,
64 Essex Road, London N1 8LR
by 7th September 1988.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Require numerate person for contract centred in Benelux. Must be available immediately and fluent in French, Dutch and Flemish.

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after 6pm today or all day tomorrow.

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Moorcroft Construction (Ellesmere Port) Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary Company of the Elliott Group of Companies.

This company operates in the North West carrying out works in Merseyside, Wirral and surrounding areas, it undertakes building and civil engineering contracts, large scale factory alterations, improvements and industrial maintenance for prestige clients.

Due to continued sustained growth this newly created board appointment has been formed with objective of assuming full responsibility for the financial supervision of all contracts by effectively controlling the Quantity Surveying function of the Company.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons, possessing a sound commercial knowledge and the requisite management skills to progress with the Company's intention to broaden and develop their potential.

This package includes an excellent salary, a contributory pension scheme, free medical and life insurance and a quality car.

Please write in confidence enclosing your curriculum vitae to:

Mr. E J Morgan
Managing Director
Moorcroft Construction (Ellesmere Port) Limited
Head Office, 133 Stansted Road
BISHOP'S STORTFORD, Herts CM23 2AN

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Central London £12 - 16,000

We are one of the leading recruitment consultancies operating in the computer industry. We specialise in recruiting advertising based companies for a predominantly office chip client base.

A new appointment - Researcher - has been created, to play a key role in the next phase of our growth and to ensure our continued success. Responsibilities will include the provision of computer industry information on a regular basis, as well as running special projects on various aspects of the recruitment and computer marketplace. You will have at your disposal PC database systems.

Whatever your background, you must have some experience of using computers and, ideally, an appreciation of the computer industry. You should be able to work on your own initiative, possess an outgoing personality, at the same time being analytical and logical.

Reporting to the Managing Director, this position offers tremendous scope and opportunity for the future.

For further information please contact Stephen Brown on 01-379 5252 (daily to 7.00pm) or 0277 223891 (evenings and weekends).

Alternatively send your CV to him at Greenfield Human Resources, Norman House, 185-189 Strand, London WC2R 0BZ.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

£22,500 + CAR

Our client, a large industrial and domestic waste management company, are searching for a Market Development Manager to pursue and initiate development projects, as well as handle the marketing of new business.

You will be someone aged 30+, educated to Degree level, with at least 6 years experience, preferably in the marketing of industrial waste services, and possess the ability to communicate effectively at all levels.

For further details of this appointment, please telephone Elaine Wilshire

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The WEFA group is the leading global economic forecasting company. It was formed from the combination of Wharton Economics (founded by Prof. Lawrence H. White, 1980 Nobel Laureate in Economics) and the former Chase Econometrics.

We are creating a new team within WEFA Ltd, the UK member of the WEFA Group, which will be responsible for expanding our business and supporting our clients in the use of our:

- economic and financial data
- major economic and financial software (WEFA) and its applications
- consultancy, data and software services

The position open at this time is for the Team Leader.

You should have had previous experience in providing high quality support to users of data distribution services and enjoy working with clients.

You should also have sales skills and would be expected to contribute to the successful growth of this activity.

You should have a degree in Economics or a related subject and some knowledge of economic techniques. Prior knowledge of economic and financial data and its applications, computer, consultancy and general communications skills are desirable requirements. Experience in team management would be an advantage.

If you consider that you have these skills and are interested in a rewarding and interesting career, then please contact Ian Byrnie on 01-425-4255 or write enclosing a full CV, and current salary details to:

IAN BYRNE, WEFA LTD., 25, LOWER BELGRAVE ST., LONDON SW1W 0HW

NATIONAL ANIMAL CHARITY SEEKS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER/FUNDRAISER

The National Canine Defence League is looking for a person with initiative, enthusiasm and a successful record in planning, managing and co-ordinating events, preferably within the fund-raising field.

The successful candidate will also have experience in publicity and be able to write comprehensive reports and press releases.

The position is based in London but with a certain amount of UK travel.

Remuneration around £12,000 with mileage allowance.

Please send CV and detail all relevant experience to:

Secretary and Chief Executive NCCL

1 Pratt Mews London NW1 0AD

Maine-Tucker

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This is an exciting Career Opportunity to join one of the top advertising agencies in the country today, as a bright young person with a real interest in Personnel and the Finance World. It is the opportunity to work in Advertising. You must be a person with initiative, enthusiasm and a successful record in planning, managing and co-ordinating events, preferably within the fund-raising field. You will be part of a small, young, dynamic team who are really intent on Professional success. There are superb career prospects. So, if you are well-educated (A-Level minimum) well-presented and have a little Commercial work experience - Accounts would be useful but training given. Also a little typing is a bonus. Call Amanda Maine-Tucker

90 Full Mill St, London SW1W 9LH Telephone: 01-925 0546

GENUINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SALES CAREER

Cornhill Publications are leading international publishers of prestige business books. This year we shall be launching a further six major international titles dealing with finance, business and technology.

We are looking for men and women who are genuinely interested in either commencing or continuing a career in Advertising sales with a first class Publishing Company.

You will probably be between 22-35 with some sales experience, although that may not be necessary. Above all you must have drive, personality and absolute determination to succeed. Our commission structure is designed to create realistic earnings of between £22-45K per annum.

If you are ambitious and have the confidence to present at the most senior level then call Chris Humphreys or Julien Wildman on 240 1515.

TO £25k + CAR GENERAL MANAGER

Reporting directly to M.D.

Riverside - the most exciting and comprehensive Sports Club in the country - is substantially increasing its facilities over the next year. We are now looking for a General Manager to take over the day-to-day running of the Club whilst reporting directly to the Managing Director.

This is a new position and the successful applicant must be able to motivate and lead a young and enthusiastic team of over 100. Budgeting/marketing/financial skills are necessary, as is a keen interest in health and fitness.

This is a key position within the Company and will lead to an eventual Board position after a satisfactory trial period.

Please apply with C.V., in writing, in the first instance to:

A. Holmes Esq, Managing Director, Riverside Racquet Centre PLC, 100, The Meadows, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EL

Are you Management Material?

FPS, a successful national company requires motivated young men and women to train rapidly to management positions.

Essentials are self-motivation, application to hard work and the ability to absorb new ideas rapidly. This opportunity carries the potential for high earnings in your first year.

Prove you can make it in management by telephoning:

Ricky Yue at our Covent Garden office London on 01-240 9999

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP

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Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-256 8501

An important position - scope to become Group Company Secretary in 3-6 months - share options scheme.



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LEICESTERSHIRE

£38,000-£60,000

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Applications are invited from candidates aged 35-45 either qualified as a Barrister or Solicitor or a Company Secretary ACIS/ACSA, with a good legal practice experience who are likely to be the number 2 in a corporate legal department with an emphasis on acquisitions. Responsibilities are widely drawn and will cover, through a small team, normal statutory secretarial responsibilities - interaction with outside regulatory bodies, registrars, etc. A significant part of the time will be spent as the key player on acquisitions involving negotiations and drafting agreements. The successful candidate will be quick to 'spot a point' and very much motivated by the success of projects - as well as being able to set priorities and cope with normal routine work through an efficient team. Some overseas travel will be necessary. Initial salary negotiable £38,000-£60,000 + bonus and car, contributory pension, free life assurance and free medical cover. Assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference CSD185/TT to the Managing Director: ALPS.

Opportunity to play a key role in shaping future company benefits - and to move to wide responsibilities on overseas work in pensions.

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WEST LONDON

up to £30,000 + CAR

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This position calls for candidates, aged 27-36, with a minimum of four years practical pension experience including at least two years advising management in either a major group or with Consultants or Consulting Actuaries. Essential qualities are an imaginative approach, communication and presentation skills, and the capacity to get things done. Responsibilities will cover monitoring five plans, controlling pension strategy - initially focused on the UK and later on overseas planning work. The ability to make a significant contribution assisting Trustees in a conclusive manner is important as well as keeping fully up-to-date on competitive market positions on pensions. Occasional travel to Europe will be necessary. Initial salary up to £30,000 plus car, non-contributory pension, free life assurance, free family medical B.U.P.A. and assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference PDM4624/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

A key appointment with career prospects

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LONDON

ATTRACTIVE SALARY + CAR

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

We invite applications from candidates, aged 45-50, ideally ex-Services, with a successful management and training record, experience of charitable/voluntary organisations and preferably experience of public speaking. A professional qualification (M.Inst.M., ACIS) or PSC will be an advantage. The responsibilities are widely drawn and include assisting in the organisation of the Annual Conference and The Festival of Remembrance, acting as Minutes Secretary to various committees, carrying out research and preparing briefs for the General Secretary and the supervision of property management. The hours are irregular with some evening and weekend committee work, as well as travel to branches throughout the U.K. An attractive salary is negotiable + car, contributory pension, free life assurance and WPA. Applications in strict confidence under reference AGSA 4628/TT to the Managing Director: CJA.

A challenging blend of research and policy development in this influential organisation, representing its members' wide-ranging business interests

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LONDON

Negotiable up to £19,000

INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the IOD, for this appointment covering UK and EC employment and I.R. policy, we invite applications from graduates, aged 25-30, with a wide knowledge of employment law and experience in the practical application of employment legislation. This is likely to have been in a corporate personnel position, legal practice or within local/central Government or trade association. The appointed candidate will be responsible for servicing the Employment Committee (working closely with its Chairman) and, as a member of the IOD's Policy Unit, will take a leading role in the researching and formulation of policy documents/publications covering employment and I.R. matters. Other responsibilities include preparing briefs, liaising with government departments at senior level, representing the IOD in public and maintaining close links with its members, principally in an advisory capacity. Important will be the ability to present facts in a lucid, concise format and to work effectively as the Employment specialist in a team representing Company Affairs, Taxation, Parliamentary and Business Policy issues. Initial salary negotiable up to £19,000, non-contributory pension with life assurance, free medical insurance. Applications in strict confidence, under reference EIP4625/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PJ. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501.
ORGANISATIONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE ON RECRUITMENT - PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01-588 3579.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE PAST AS WELL AS IN THE FUTURE?

If so, we have just the job for you.
The Old Guilds Association is seeking an ARCHIVIST to run their London based national archive with currently holds archival and library material and artefacts.
If you enjoy a real challenge, are a self-starter and interested in the cultural heritage and history of 30 years of Guiding, please contact me now. Ideal candidates would be a Diploma in Archive Administration or equivalent, at least two years professional experience, good communication skills and, last but not least, a sense of humour.
Please send your c.v. today to:
Miss J. Nichols
The Old Guilds Association
17-19 Gresham Street, London EC2A 3DF
Closing date for application 15 September 1988.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING (DESIGNATE)

Leading timber group seeks Director of Marketing (Designate) to be based in London/Hove. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and organisation of a new marketing arm of the group, to develop outlets in U.K. and Continental for products including: mouldings, doors, door-jambes, window frames, knock-down furniture, kitchen cabinet doors etc.
The successful candidate will, in addition to being a self-starter, have in-depth marketing experience in the mouldings and furniture and component parts industry, with a demonstrated record of achievement.
Experience in furniture factory production would be an advantage.
Remuneration package will be attractive to the right candidate who will probably be between 30 and 50 years old. Interested candidates please reply, giving full details of experience, age, qualifications, current remuneration, and remuneration expectations, together with recent passport-size photograph, to: BOX 368, LONDON SW1X 8JL.

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The one who stands out

London School of Economics and Political Science

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We have a vacancy for a temporary APPEALS OFFICER required as soon as possible until 30 September 1988. The salary will be in the range £13,000 - £20,760 (inclusive) according to the extent of relevant experience. The post will be concerned with all aspects of fund-raising and requires appropriate experience. Further particulars and application forms are available from the Staffing Office, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Telephone 01 405 7686 (9.30am - 5.00pm) 01 404 4769 (after 5.00pm). Closing date for receipt of application is 15 September 1988. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

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Dear Sir,
Having achieved reasonable success in my career to date, potential for future achievement appears very restricted.
My ambitions for myself and my family coupled with a real desire to reap the rewards accorded to my ability and drive from a career as opposed to another job, make it essential for me to change my occupation.
I am presentable, intelligent, able to communicate and absorb instruction and an interview with you would be mutually rewarding.
Yours faithfully,
If this is your pleasure sign here

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Please return this in an envelope to Box Number A57 The Times, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DD

ESTATE AGENTS Negotiator

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Anthony Hill & Co.
01 229 0072.
(Ref ADH)

RESERVATIONIST

Riverside, the most exciting and comprehensive Sports Club in the country, and situated in Chiswick, is looking for a Reservationist. Applicants will be working with our members so a strong personality combined with a smart appearance and good telephone manner are essential, as is the ability to work on own initiative. If you fit the bill, phone Jill on: 01 994 0101 who will give you the details.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIES

Ellis & Co. London's largest Independent Estate Agents are looking for people who don't just want to sit and type all day, to act as secretaries/administrators to ensure the continued smooth running of their offices.
Applicants should be aged 22+ with good typing, WP and admin skills. The salary will be up to £11,000 p.a. dependent on age and experience.

If you want to leave typing to the typists, call Jane Davison on 01 458 3252.

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This was the average amount earned in commission in 1987 by Consultants who had been with Imperial Trident for more than 2 years.
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In return, we can offer a first rate professional challenge matched by an excellent salary package. We can also promise prospects that are dictated only by ability... in such a high profile role, talent will be recognised quickly and rewarded.

Please telephone or write with full cv to: Jayne Thomas (Ref. T1/9) Arthur Andersen & Co., 2 Arundel Street, London, WC2R 3LT. Tel: 01-836 1200.

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Candidates should be under 45, professionally qualified, with good industrial experience. You will be commercially aware, energetic, have excellent interpersonal skills and be excited by influencing policy at the highest level.

A fully competitive salary and an attractive range of executive level benefits will be offered, together with the prospect of an early Board appointment, to the successful candidate. Please send full career and salary details, marked 'Private & Confidential', to the Managing Director, Hotchkiss Group, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 9AX

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Central London

to £15,000

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You will be in your early twenties with a minimum of one year's commercial experience within a computerised environment. You will possess the necessary interpersonal and analytical skills to attain an early management position. A knowledge of French would be advantageous but not essential.

If you are interested and meet the above requirements then please send a curriculum vitae to Nigel Beasley, Products Division, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH or ring him on 01-831 2000 quoting reference M104.



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For a newly/recently qualified CIMA, ACA or ACCA, aged 24-28, this high-profile challenge presents an ideal opportunity to progress into a senior head office role in Treasury or Business Planning, or to earn a Subsidiary Directorship within 2 years.

For further information, please contact ANDREW LIVESY on 01-404 3365 at ALDERWICK PEACHELL AND PARTNERS LIMITED, Accountancy and Financial Recruitment, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA.

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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

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Bishopsgate Insurance Limited are part of the worldwide AMEV Financial Services and Insurance Group and currently have an opening for a newly qualified Accountant, ready for the challenge of this new post at our head office in Southampton.

The nature of our work requires you to be both organised and disciplined, able to work accurately to deadlines and able to encourage and motivate your staff. Some general insurance experience is preferred as you will be responsible for the smooth running of all management account functions, including statutory and shareholders accounts.

As well as the attractive salary offered, a wide range of benefits are available, including mortgage subsidy, flexible working hours, an excellent contributory pension scheme and up to 25 days holiday.

If you feel you would like to join us, please apply in writing, giving your career details and current salary to date to: Kim Webb, Bishopsgate Insurance Limited, Capital House, Houndwell Place, Southampton SO9 1NY

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For further details of the opportunities on offer by our client call Mr Darrell Bowie on the telephone number below or send your C.V. to him as soon as possible.

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(All Consultants in our Group are aware of the appearance of this advertisement).

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- Operational Reviews
- Forecasting & Business Strategy
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- Liaison with Operational Directors
- Development of US Reporting

Promotion to Controllership is envisaged within 12-18 months. Candidates should currently be studying towards final ACCA/CIMA examinations, show commercial flair and be aged under 30.

The company offers a generous salary package and full study support. Please contact JUDITH AYRES quoting ref. 8328 on 01-404 3195 at ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS (Pao Cos).

HORIZONS

Lose an old English habit and say what you mean

Your boss asks you to do overtime at short notice, but you have promised to take a friend out for a birthday meal. Do you:

a) agree, and ring your friend to say you will be late?

b) say you will do a couple of hours of overtime, and hope you will make the date?

c) say "no" and explain that you have a prior engagement, which on this occasion you cannot break?

If you have answered a) or b) you would certainly benefit from a course in assertiveness training. AT began in the US in the 1970s, and was originally geared to the needs of women to say "no" in a variety of social and work problems.

Now adult education classes in assertiveness are being run here, and AT is an essential part of personal effectiveness programmes run by consultants who offer executives and professionals, male and female, instruction in expressing their views directly, and unhindered by inappropriate guilt.

On this side of the Atlantic, we provide fertile ground for the self-belief credo. George Mikes, a keen observer of our national characteristics, wrote: "In England it is bad manners to be clever, to assert something confidently. It may be your personal view that two and

two make four, but you must not state it in a self-assured way, because this is a democratic country, and others may be of a different opinion."

We preface our simplest requests with "excuse me, but could you possibly?" or say "I'm afraid I can't do that at present", — translation: "No, I don't fancy that at all" — and self-effacement is deeply-rooted in conversational convention.

Typically, a work-related AT course examines different kinds of behaviour:

Passive: avoiding the respon-

Derek Morgan has some tips on how to stand up to the boss and he took his lesson from a woman

sibility of decision making can lead to the "martyr" attitude of the hard-done-by worker who enjoys being put upon by colleagues.

Aggressive: competitive, hell-bent on winning, constantly needing to prove something.

Manipulative: distrusting workmates; a concealed form of aggression; causes frustration and anger in colleagues who feel unable to pin down motives.

It should be emphasized that

these are not personality types — we may each exhibit an amalgam of all kinds of conduct in our working lives.

In contrast to these essentially low self-esteem categories, assertive action shows respect for yourself and for others. You accept your own good and not-so-good qualities, and you can openly ask for what you want and risk refusal. You don't need the constant approval of your workmates, and from this position of strength you are able to respond sincerely to others.

Hooper Lodge Associates of

Susie Hooper often sees students coming to AT with serious misconceptions. "Some people think they are going to learn how to be a steam-roller or a more effective steam-roller" — they don't make the essential distinction between aggression and assertion.

Some see AT as just another way of manipulating their staff, but "it's not about empire building or scoring points off people." Responsible assertive behaviour includes sensitivity to the other person's point of view. Miracle seekers arrive hoping to be transformed in just one day at school.

Is there any inherent conflict between true assertiveness and the competitive win/lose business philosophy? Not really, she says: "If you bulldoze a customer into giving an order, you may not get another one." If you get someone to do something they don't really want to do, by the "broken record" technique (ie repeating your request) they will be resentful.

What, then, can trainees realistically hope for? Ms Hooper aims to teach a way of communicating more effectively so that they are more likely to get what they want. "The model is open, brief, direct and clear communication — with the proviso that AT doesn't guarantee getting your own way."



Susie Hooper, left, assertiveness-training instructor

When it is time to bite the bullet

You will often have to bite the bullet, but with assertiveness training (AT) you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have given it your best shot. You won't come out of a meeting feeling annoyed with yourself for not saying what you really think.

You won't leave a job interview muttering "I wish I had been strong enough to say more about my part in that successful project."

AT should help you cut through the manipulation, the prevarications and deceptions of office life. It is a great help with personal time management.

When Ms Hooper meets her fellow assertion trainers in the Nottingham area, they get through the business very quickly. Supervision becomes more effective since you put over your message clearly. You increase your own efficiency (and the firm's) because you don't allow yourself to be saddled with duties that are not part of your job.

Teaching methods include questionnaires (identifying which areas of your work you could be more assertive in) and role-playing work problems dealing with an obstructive receptionist, confronting the office gossip, coping with an over-critical boss. Video replay allows for discussion of body language.

An interesting aspect of this course is advice on assertive dressing. Power dressing (shoulder pads and clunky jewelry) is one way of flaunting your authority. Short skirts can be manipulative, and invite sexual harassment, and wearing frills can lead to being treated like a little girl. An assertive style (a simple business suit and white shirt) is said to project a competent professional image which shows respect for your colleagues.

Assertiveness course members are advised to take one step at a time. Apply the skills you use successfully in one area to another. Practice on the less crucial problems — if you can say "I was in front of you" in the cafeteria queue, you can move on to saying "no" to an unreasonable request from your supervisor.

AT courses now feature in the prospectuses of local adult education centres, though they do get booked up quickly. Job seekers should be able to apply the general principles to their interview technique. If you are asked a question you don't follow, or the recruiter uses a jargon term you don't understand, don't bluff and just carry on; ask for an explanation. Improved self confidence will allow you to ask more positively for information about job responsibilities, prospects, training and salary.

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In order to sustain their impressive growth they are now seeking to appoint a Group Financial Accountant to strengthen the UK Team. This is a high profile role, reporting to the Group Chief Accountant. Duties will include the management of 12 staff, the production of monthly and statutory group accounts, cash control, treasury functions,

detailed financial and business reviews and the implementation of new computer systems.

The ideal candidate will be a qualified accountant ACA, ACCA, ACMA, aged between 24-32, looking to move into a fast expanding international organisation.

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For more information please contact Giles Daubeney by telephone on 01-437 0464 or write enclosing brief details.

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You will receive ongoing internal and external training in all aspects of recruitment including interview technique and client presentation skills. Ideally a graduate, aged 24 - 30, you should already have at least 6 - 9 months' experience in recruitment.

The substantial basic salary is complemented by both individual and team related bonuses, and the likelihood of a car within 12 months.

Please apply by telephone or in writing to: BARRIE PALLAN on 01-404 3155 at ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS LIMITED, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA. All applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

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TO
READERS

Readers are advised to seek professional advice before entering into any form of agreement, or parting with any money. When replying to box numbers please do not enclose original documentation and mark the box number clearly on the top right hand corner of the envelope and return it to:

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also be involved in logging technical support calls and providing administrative and secretarial support where appropriate.

Together with a competitive salary we offer an excellent benefits package, including Profit Share, Personal Pension plan, contributory BUPA.

Please apply in writing with full CV to Jane Minson, Personnel Officer, Torus Systems Ltd, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 4GZ or telephone (0223) 862131 and ask for a job description and an application form.

Interviews will take place at Torus INL in the London Docklands.

TORUS INL

L&N Consultants to the International Oil Industry

The Company requires an Experienced Secretary/PA

He work with its Managing Director and Sales Team. The successful applicant will be aged between 25 and 35, and have a pleasant outgoing personality, coupled with first-class secretarial skills and a good deal of common sense.

There will be a necessity on occasion to travel, therefore a current UK driving licence must be held. A first-class salary between £10,000 and £12,000 per annum and excellent conditions of employment are available to the right person.

Applicants should forward a current C.V. to the Secretary, L & N Consultants Limited, Hamilton House, 111 Marlborough, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1SR.

A Job in Paris?

The Director of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers (FIEP), a non-profit association defending press freedom and representing the professional interests of its members world-wide, seeks

An Executive Secretary

The successful candidate will be bilingual (English-French), have excellent secretarial skills, and provide evidence that she can write concise and clear minutes of meetings on a wide variety of issues. Some travel is involved, but also a great deal of basic secretarial desk work. Salary: c. £13,000 per annum; seven weeks holiday.

Replies, marked 'confidential', to Executive Director, F.I.E.P., 6 rue de Flandre, Poissonniers, 75010 Paris, France, with C.V., examples of minutes taken, photo, tel. number.

Interviews in London on 21 September 1988.

SECRETARY

£12,000 + Excellent Benefits

Do you have fast accurate typing? Are you organized, well spoken and with a good sense of humour? This vacancy involves interesting WP work and various admin duties including the co-ordination of major marketing functions. Good career prospects, age 21-25.

HELLE SECRETARIAL LTD
10 Marlborough Street W1R 7DE Tel: 01-436 7946

WORK IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE... Very busy and lively Knightsbridge estate agents desperately need a well spoken, confident and cheerful person with a great sense of humour and a good knowledge of the area. Typing must be accurate, if not fast, as you will be required to help out when necessary. Apply in confidence to Amelia Azia, Chesterfield & Co - 01 581 5234. NO AGENTS

SENIOR SECRETARY - £12,000 pa
Required by a fast growing PLC to work for our Group Company Secretary at our H.O. in Westminster. Ideal age 21-27. Must have excellent typing skills. Short hand and shorthand. As well as providing full secretarial support you will be expected to relieve the Secretary and therefore we require a person with initiative who wants to become totally involved and take on responsibility. Please write with C.V. to Miss M. Jarrett, 16 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2BX.

DESIGN ASSISTANT
£12,000
Business based interior designers need a motivated and creative person to assist on busy domestic refurbishment projects. Must have typing and WP skills and be a driver. Call Secretary Group 01-720 5148 (Rev. Sec.)

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Of busy central London lighting company seeks Secretary/PA must have typing and shorthand skills. Must have excellent communication skills and be a driver. Salary £12,000. 01-723 4993

INTERIOR DESIGNER
CHELSEA
Small Company looking for an experienced, creative, enthusiastic and driving force in interior design. Salary £12,000. London N8. Tel: 01 341 5656 ext. 294.

SECRETARY/PA
Pleasant personality a must knowledge of Wordstar an advantage. Opportunity to grow in busy marketing public company. Work is interesting and varied. Salary £12,000. London N8. Tel: 01 341 5656 ext. 294.

SKI SOLUTIONS
We require Sales Consultants to organize and holiday throughout the Alps. Sound knowledge of ski resorts essential, together with a great telephone manner. Salary £12,000. Please contact Amanda Woodbury on 01-351 7461.

WORK IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE... Very busy and lively Knightsbridge estate agents desperately need a well spoken, confident and cheerful person with a great sense of humour and a good knowledge of the area. Typing must be accurate, if not fast, as you will be required to help out when necessary. Apply in confidence to Amelia Azia, Chesterfield & Co - 01 581 5234. NO AGENTS

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Personal Secretary

CDC is a British public corporation engaged in overseas development. It invests in development projects in some 50 countries around the world, and provides management and other support services to its projects.

We are seeking a PERSONAL SECRETARY to the CHIEF PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE in our new and prestigious office in SW1. Excellent secretarial skills including word processing are essential — equally important are interpersonal skills and the ability to organise a busy and varied work load. Applicants should ideally have experience at director level, be over 35 and non-smokers.

We offer a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package.

Please ring for an application form or send your CV (including details of salary expectations) to: Miss B A Rooke, Personnel Executive, CDC, One Bessborough Gardens, London SW1V 2JQ. 01-828 4488.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
RING YOUR NEAREST OFFICE
Fleet Street 353 7696 or Regent Street 439 1240

OLD MASTERS PICTURE WORLD
to £16,000
Join this famous Auction House, involve yourself in their Old Masters dept. History of Art background preferred with 5/11 skills ideal for second jobber and early 20's.

ENTER PUBLIC RELATIONS
£10,000-£11,000
Superb opening with leading PR/Media Group keen to train second jobber with enthusiasm and flair for client liaison, campaign planning and an eye for the future.

PUBLISHING
to £11,000
Instant involvement in Book Design, Styling, Production and Overseas Sales for super enthusiastic 20+ with some S/11 and a little German/French. Top Publishers - lots of scope.

SECRETARY
Required to work for a team of sports journalists on a leading national newspaper. Age 19+.

2 years secretarial experience essential, accurate shorthand/typing skills and pleasant telephone manner required. Interest in sport would be an advantage. Hours 10am-6pm. Salary £9,446 per annum and 6 weeks holiday.

For further details please ring 01 353 6000 ext 525

International Hotel Group
£11,000
Based in lovely offices in SW6, this young, energetic Sales Director is seeking a Manned individual to assist him with his very hectic work schedule. He travels overseas frequently and is involved with numerous presentations. If you are bright and well spoken, with an interest in the Leisure industry and have secretarial skills of £9,000 (+ exp), this could be your next career move. This would be a full time position with a 2nd jobber. (Age 21-25) living in West London. Plenty of parking space available.

LEGAL SECRETARY
£14,000
Experienced legal secretary required for Senior Partner of busy conveyancing firm. Applicants should be aged between 40 and 50 be prepared to take responsibility, deal with clients on the telephone and have a good record of attendance and timekeeping. Medium sized, friendly firm in WC1, generous Christmas bonus paid on performance. Apply in writing with CV to Box No. A11, c/o The Times, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 6DD.

HARLEY STREET OPTHALMOLOGIST
Seeks Girl Friday
(Who is also a Girl Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) Salary £10,000 (inc) Bonus 10% - 5% (2 days) & Bonus - 4% (2 days) Please telephone 01-437 7871 or write to 13 Harley Street

PA/SECRETARY TO NEW BUSINESS DIRECTOR
MID-20's
£12,000
We are a rapidly expanding financial consultancy and we are looking for a PA/Secretary to our new Business Director and his young team in our new office in EC1.

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RECRUITMENT SECRETARY

From £10,000

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

From £10,000

Do you have a lively personality, the ability to get on well with others and a capacity for hard work?

If you have these qualities combined with 'A' levels and good secretarial skills: WP skills, we would be interested to hear from you. The opportunity has arisen within our Management Consultancy personnel team for two positions which would involve leading a full and demanding role within the personnel function. Your reward will be excellent working conditions and a competitive benefits package combined with a high level of job satisfaction in a job that's going somewhere.

Please send your C.V. to Jemma Moore.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock

1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD

TELEVISION SECRETARY

£10,000

If you have experience of being a television secretary or if you are a good typist and have a good knowledge of the television industry, we would be interested to hear from you. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the television department and will be required to have a good knowledge of the television industry and a good knowledge of the television department.

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PUBLISHING PA SEC

£12,000

The Managing Director of a well established publishing house is seeking a PA/Secretary with excellent secretarial skills and a good knowledge of the publishing industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the publishing department and will be required to have a good knowledge of the publishing industry and a good knowledge of the publishing department.

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DEGREE COURSE VACANCY SERVICE

Today, The Times publishes a list of vacancies remaining in British Universities and Polytechnics for degree courses in Physical Sciences, Medicine and Biological Sciences.

The lists are compiled by The Times Network Systems Limited, in conjunction with Midland Bank, from information supplied by the Universities' Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnics Central Admissions Systems (PCAS). The database information on all courses is updated every 24 hours. For the university vacancies the figures in brackets indicate the course code used by UCCA and will help students now in the clearing system to determine whether the course is similar to their original choice. The number in brackets next to the university name indicates the A level score required for that course before an applicant can be considered, counting 5 points for an 'A' grade, 4 points for a 'B' grade etc. Some of the polytechnics may offer several courses with different codes all appearing under a particular course title. These courses are modular and will include study in a variety of subjects, one of which is in the title.

Applicants should consult their PCAS and UCCA handbooks for more information about the courses offered.

TTNS provides full lists of all degree course vacancies, available to the 5,500 educational establishments, including 70 local authority careers offices who subscribe to the TTNS database. The data can be accessed by typing 'Clearing' at the system prompt.

The information is also available on ECCTIS and Prestel, or by calling 0272-217721 for Polytechnic vacancies or 0272-217244 for University vacancies.

Polytechnics

Astronomy
Huddersfield V100.
Lancashire V400.

Behavioural Science/Studies
London (Central) V100.
Oxford B180.

Biochemistry
Bristol C111.
Coventry Lanchester C111.
Huddersfield C111.
Kingston C110, C116.
Liverpool C711.
London (North) C111.
London (South) C111, D401, H801, J801.
Sheffield G100.
Stafford C111, F111.
Sunderland G101, G102, G103, G104, G105, G106, G107, G108, G109, G110, G111, G112, G113, G114, G115, G116, G117, G118, G119, G120, G121, G122, G123, G124, G125, G126, G127, G128, G129, G130, G131, G132, G133, G134, G135, G136, G137, G138, G139, G140, G141, G142, G143, G144, G145, G146, G147, G148, G149, G150, G151, G152, G153, G154, G155, G156, G157, G158, G159, G160, G161, G162, G163, G164, G165, G166, G167, G168, G169, G170, G171, G172, G173, G174, G175, G176, G177, G178, G179, G180, G181, G182, G183, G184, G185, G186, G187, G188, G189, G190, G191, G192, G193, G194, G195, G196, G197, G198, G199, G200, G201, G202, G203, G204, G205, G206, G207, G208, G209, G210, G211, G212, G213, G214, G215, G216, G217, G218, G219, G220, G221, G222, G223, G224, G225, G226, G227, G228, G229, G230, G231, G232, G233, G234, G235, G236, G237, G238, G239, G240, G241, G242, G243, G244, G245, G246, G247, G248, G249, G250, G251, G252, G253, G254, G255, G256, G257, G258, G259, G260, G261, G262, G263, G264, G265, 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G1941, G1942, G1943, G1944, G1945, G1946, G1947, G1948, G1949, G1950, G1951, G1952, G1953, G1954, G1955, G1956, G1957, G1958, G1959, G1960, G1961, G1962, G1963, G1964, G1965, G1966, G1967, G1968, G1969, G1970, G1971, G1972, G1973, G1974, G1975, G1976, G1977, G1978, G1979, G1980, G1981, G1982, G1983, G1984, G1985, G1986, G1987, G1988, G1989, G1990, G1991, G1992, G1993, G1994, G1995, G1996, G1997, G1998, G1999, G2000, G2001, G2002, G2003, G2004, G2005, G2006, G2007, G2008, G2009, G2010, G2011, G2012, G2013, G2014, G2015, G2016, G2017, G2018, G2019, G2020, G2021, G2022, G2023, G2024, G2025, G2026, G2027, G2028, G2029, G2030, G2031, G2032, G2033, G2034, G2035, G2036, G2037, G2038, G2039, G2040, G2041, G2042, G2043, G2044, G2045, G2046, G2047, G2048, G2049, G2050, G2051, G2052, G2053, G2054, G2055, G2056, G2057, G2058, G2059, G2060, G2061, G2062, G2063, G2064, G2065, G2066, G2067, G2068, G2069, G2070, G2071, G2072, G2073, G2074, G2075, G2076, G2077, G2078, G2079, G2080, G2081, G2082, G2083, G2084, G2085, G2086, G2087, G2088, G2089, G2090, G2091, G2092, G2093, G2094, G2095, G2096, G2097, G2098, G2099, G2100, G2101, G2102, G2103, G2104, G2105, G2106, G2107, G2108, G2109, G2110, G2111, G2112, G2113, G2114, G2115, G2116, G2117, G2118, G2119, G2120, G2121, G2122, G2123, G2124, G2125, G2126, G2127, G2128, G2129, G2130, G2131, G2132, G2133, G2134, G2135, G2136, G2137, G2138, G2139, G2140, G2141, G2142, G2143, G2144, G2145, G2146, G2147, G2148, G2149, G2150, G2151, G2152, G2153, G2154, G2155, G2156, G2157, G2158, G2159, G2160, G2161, G2162, G

Bob Kirley forecasts that the 1987 strike will especially help Simms restore glory to New York

Welcome to season of Giants

When the National Football League season begins on Sunday, supporters can expect a campaign markedly different from that of 1987. Last year was the odious season of the strike. You remember: disaffected spectators putting up with little-known, underqualified guys who were living off their sporting fantasies. Never mind the players — those were just the television presenters.

The 24-day players' strike, the fundamental issues of which have yet to be resolved, produced disgruntled supporters and an assortment of oddities on the grid iron.

Perennial contenders such as the LA Raiders, Dallas Cowboys, Miami Dolphins and Pittsburgh Steelers missed the play-offs for the second year in a row. Traditional losers such as the New Orleans Saints, Indianapolis Colts and Houston Oilers did advance to the post-season competition.

The New York Giants never had a chance to defend their Super Bowl title. After losing the first two games of the 1987 season, the Giants' replacements lost three more. The real players never recovered.

No Redskins regular crossed the picket line, but their replacements won their three games. The Redskins won the Super Bowl behind Doug Williams' brilliant performance, and the Denver Broncos lost the Super Bowl for the second consecutive year.

This season, teams to watch in the American Football Conference (AFC) are the Buffalo Bills (East Division), the Cleveland Browns (Central) and the Broncos (West). In the National Football Conference (NFC), leading contenders for the divisional titles will be the Giants and the Redskins (East), the Minnesota Vikings (Central) and the Saints (West).

The Bills are not the greatest team this side of the Super Bowl, but the AFC East is crummy start-to-finish. At one time exciting and scary, the leading lights, New England, Miami and the New York Jets, have given mediocrity a bad name.

Buffalo have Jim Kelly, the wonderful quarterback, a substantially improved defence and the best young talent in the division. Bruce Smith, one of the NFL's most famous defensive linemen, Shane Conlan, the second-year linebacker, and Cornelius

Taylor left out after drugs test

Lawrence Taylor, the New York Giants linebacker, has been suspended for four games under the National Football League's stringent drugs rules for testing positive for the second time.

Taylor, the NFL's most valuable player in 1986 when his club won the Super Bowl, misses the season opener on Monday against Washington Redskins, the champions.

Taylor, who has played in the NFL for seven seasons, is one of the dominant defensive players of his era. He has a \$1 million (about £600,000) base annual salary, about \$62,500 per game. The Giants are now deciding whether to pay him for the missed games.

Wellington Mara, the Giants president, is vehemently against drugs, and if he decides to dock pay it will cost Taylor \$250,000. In his autobiography, *LT: Living on the Edge*, Taylor said: "I'm no hero, I'm no role model, I live my life in the fast lane. I drink too much, I party too much, I drive too fast and I'm hell on quarterbacks. When somebody calls me crazy I take it as a compliment."

Bennett — picked up in the three-team Eric Dickerson transfer, involving the Bills, Colts and Rams — will punish the opposition.

The Browns are just a few crucial defensive plays away from the Super Bowl. They nearly made the big game each of the last two years. Marty Schottenheimer, the Cleveland coach, has applied liberal portions of ego and set about bolstering the defence, which should be excellent.

Newcomers include Michael Dean Perry, brother of William "The Fridge" Perry, of Chicago Bears. Offensively, the rarely intercepted Bernie Kosar is just about as good and intelligent as quarterbacks come.

Kosar's guru, Lindy Infante, is the new head coach at Green Bay, but Schottenheimer, a specialist in defence, has assumed the offensive coaching duties, yet similarly believes in spreading out the defence to attack the weakest point.

The Broncos have tried to beef up their under-size offensive line and have added the ageing but probably still useful running back, Tony Dorsett,



Quarterback quantum leap: Kosar needs another fine season to fulfil Cleveland's credentials

from the Dallas Cowboys. As long as John Elway can sprint out and fire with the accuracy of a heat-seeking missile, Denver will be difficult to knock down in their division.

In the NFC title game, the Vikings came within an incomplete pass at the goal line to send their game against the Redskins into overtime. That is considerably better than the Broncos did in the Super Bowl.

Last year the club botched four fourth-quarter leads; that does not usually happen to teams coached by Bill Parcells. Their 1987 record of six wins and nine defeats has given the Giants a substantially easier schedule than that faced by the Redskins, their arch-rivals.

The Vikings burst to life in the play-offs last year and nearly advanced to the Super Bowl. During the strike, their replacement players failed to win a game, and the Vikings

entered the play-offs as a wildcard team only because the Cardinals blew their season finale against the Cowboys.

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Minnesota, who have as much talent as anyone in the NFL, used their first two turns in the draft of college players to select offensive line men, Randall McDaniel and Todd Kassis. McDaniel is a national weightlifting champion who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.56sec.

These newcomers should help the club punch the ball across in goal-line situations, an aspect of the game that often stymied the big-play

Vikings last year. With Tommy Kramer, Wade Wilson and Rich Gannon, the quarterbacks, and Anthony Carter, a superb receiver, the club might not be out of place in the Super Bowl.

The Saints reached the play-offs for the first time in club history last season but were humbled by the Vikings 44-10 at home. No earth-shattering changes are expected but the running game will be expected to take some of the heat off Bobby Hebert, an adequate quarterback.

Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, a 5ft 11in, 260lb rookie, has been unimpressive, so the close season knee surgery to Reuben Mayes' had better stand up. The linebacker corps is excellent, but the Saints' ponderous secondary could be a liability. The Divisional race with the San Francisco 49ers will be close.

The Raiders have the youngest head coach in the NFL in the first-year man, Mike Shanahan, aged 35, who was the Broncos' offensive co-ordinator. The Raiders drafted Tim Brown, the Heisman Trophy winner, and the dynamic Bo Jackson will be joining the club when the Kansas City Royals' baseball season concludes in a month.

Chicago Bears? Their run of four NFC Central titles could be interrupted by a new quarterback and tight end positions are vulnerable; a top quarterback on a good day will blow away the Windy City guys.

Jim McMahon, the taciturn quarterback, is a season-ending injury candidate. The Bears' club allowed Wilber Marshall, the best defender, to jump to Washington for a \$6 million contract. Otis Wilson is recuperating from knee surgery this week. Mike Singletary's injury-prone defence is a liability. The Divisional race with the San Francisco 49ers will be close.

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Browns to beef prestige of AFC

The point of cooking heads for 16 regular-season games in the National Football League is to advance to the play-offs, where dreams of the Super Bowl and its cornucopia of money and glory take shape. The AFC winners have pummeled the AFC champions in four of the last five Super Bowls, so the AFC is seeking to restore some lustre.

Chuck Noll, the coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, of the AFC, was asked why his club need its No. 1 draft choice to select a defensive end, Aaron Jones, from Eastern Kentucky University. "When you select all those skill players, you end up losing the Super Bowl by 38 points," Noll said. "Super Bowls are still won by blocking and tackling."

Only one team has reached the play-offs in each of the past five years: Eric Dickerson's, four years with the Los Angeles Rams and last year with the Indianapolis Colts. Dickerson gained 1,011 yards in nine games and led the team to the AFC East title. The Colts will have trouble reaching the Super Bowl even if Dickerson provides another big season.

The New York Giants and the Cleveland Browns are leading pre-season candidates to square off in Super Bowl XXIII in Miami on January 22.

Other entertaining teams, which may not necessarily win division titles, will be the Cincinnati Bengals, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Rams. Unexpected surprises could be the Los Angeles Raiders, the Phoenix Cardinals and the Steelers.

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Hadley will get £100,000 fee for Salford move

By Keith Macklin

Adrian Hadley, the Cardiff and Wales wing threequarter, will sign for Salford tomorrow for a fee of £100,000. Hadley has agreed to join the Lancashire club on a four-year contract.

The Salford secretary, Graham McCarty, said yesterday: "We have been pursuing Hadley for a long time. He has proved himself to be one of the best finishers in the union game, with 12 tries in 27 internationals, and he will be a star attraction at The Willows."

"We are determined to stop being strugglers in the first division and to become one of the top eight clubs by the end of the season. In doing so, and by emphasising the star quality of Hadley, we aim to bring back the big crowds to Salford."

Salford are unlikely to make the same mistake with their new Welsh capture that Bradford Northern did with Terry Holmes and Hull Kingston Rovers with David Bishop, who made his debut at Salford on Sunday.

Instead of allowing him to make his first appearance in an away fixture, which puts additional gate money in another club's coffers, Salford will give Hadley his debut in the home

game against Warrington a week on Sunday.

Hadley, who is 25, sprang into prominence by scoring spectacular tries for Wales against England last season. He had stated publicly that he was "fed up with international rugby," and when news of his signing for Salford was released he said: "I need a new challenge, and in addition I can now get paid for playing rugby."

Hadley will be the second big capture by Salford from the union code. Towards the end of last season they signed Peter Williams, the Orrell and England 8 halfback.

The attendances in the first division for the opening day of the Stanes Bitter championship topped 50,000 for the first time since two divisions were re-introduced in 1973. The aggregate attendance for seven fixtures was 51,695, with the Wigan v Oldham game attracting the biggest crowd of 14,701, which was also the largest for an opening league fixture since 1973.

The previous highest aggregate was 45,725 in season 1981-82, an average of 5,716 compared with Sunday's average of 7,385.

SWIMMING

Places guaranteed for leading trio

By Steven Downes

The Olympic selectors have averted a possible rebellion in their team with a decision that avoids a six-man swim-off to determine the make-up of the men's 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay.

Two of the relay squad had refused publicly to co-operate with any such swim-off. Roland Lee and Kevin Boyd, having had trouble squeezing into the under-sized British team kit last week, had the impression they were being squeezed out of the relay squad.

To end that anxiety, the selectors have now agreed that Britain's three fastest men at 200 metres freestyle this year — Lee, Boyd and Paul Howe — are guaranteed their places in the heats of the relay in Seoul on September 20.

That though, leaves three others to fight for the one remaining place on the team, and a fight it will be, for there is a great amount of prestige attached to this particular event, where four years ago Britain won a bronze medal.

In Seoul, with all nations

present, it is likely that the eventual British quartet will have to at least match that medal-winning time just to get into the final, so the right combination must be found.

To that end, Jonathan Broughton and Paul Easter — if he passes a medical today — will have a head-to-head race on the first day of the Games, and their times will be compared to that achieved on the same day in the heats of the individual event by Mike Green.

Green, from the Killerwhales club in Essex, was third in the national championship a month ago and won his first international selection after Lee declined selection in order to concentrate on the 100 metres.

With rumours abounding last weekend that Green might have to swim another trial against Broughton and Easter to keep his individual place, this latest option, putting his relay place at stake, seems a small price to pay to ensure that he gets at least one competitive dip in the Olympic pool.

SPORTS LETTERS

Reduction of ITV coverage

From Mr Greg Dyke
Sir, Your article "Bleak views of ITV chief" (August 29) suggested that my comments about sport on television at the Edinburgh Television Festival were oblique criticism of John Bromley, ITV's Head of Sport. That was not the case.

The point I was making was that in my time as Director of Programmes at TVS I had reached the conclusion that ITV was trying to cover too many sports and it was increasingly difficult to schedule the coverage. The present ITV Controllers Group agree and that is why we are reducing or ending our coverage of a number of minority sports.

As a head of sport, John Bromley will inevitably have to make the wider coverage of sport on ITV, just as a head of drama wants more drama on television and a head of entertainment wants more entertainment. The mistakes in the past were not made by John Bromley. For promoting the coverage of more sport, but were made by those who agreed to the expansion without understanding either how difficult it would be to schedule so much sport effectively or how many non sports fans would be alienated by this volume of sport.

Your article also implies I was suggesting that at a whim, television executives should be able to move the Derby from the afternoon to the evening. What I actually said was that the move to sponsorship would be to make certain events more valuable to broadcasters and as such increase their value. Moving the Derby to the evening was a theoretical example.

Yours faithfully,
GREG DYKE, Director of Programmes, London Weekend TV, SE1.

From Mr Derek Lewis
Sir, Sport's practitioners and followers are in for a bleak time, according to your report of Mr Greg Dyke's speech to the Edinburgh Television Festival. Only sports "which deliver the audiences" will get television coverage — and fees — in future.

So, presumably, will end, as far as ITV is concerned, support for those events that build national sporting prowess, and, possibly more important, the coverage that might encourage an individual to take up a sport.

The fall in audiences has much to do with unimaginative, predictable presentation — the same old commentators (not to mention clichés), even the same camera angles.

On the BBC programmes I edited for 12 years, *The World at One* and *P.M.* variety of treatment of stories was essential in attracting a wide audience.

Mr Dyke should tell his sports departments to come up with fresh ideas for winning viewers back. The words "material they have at their disposal."

Yours faithfully,
DEREK LEWIS,
4 Campbell Road, W7.

Olympic trials of British athletics selectors

From Mr Tony Ward
Sir, The emotional outbursts with accompanying spleen that have accompanied Sebastian Coe's non-selection for the Olympic Games in Seoul reached their apogee with David Miller's piece (August 30) "Victims in the arena of errors". It was an article befitting Seb's biography.

The argument is clear-cut: once an athlete has reached the Olympic heights should he have to be condescended to return and defend his position against assumed lesser mortals? The sport said yes; Seb consistently said no, arguing his case both in the Press and on television. Others have strongly opposed the case for having to race to gain selection, notably Edwin Moses, not only a double Olympic champion but a double world champion and record-holder as well, while the greatest Olympian of them all, Al Oerter, had to gain selection four times before going on to gain an Olympic title.

Olympic champions, world record holders and international stars the world over have had to follow a programme geared to gaining selection and testing the training programme, for no coach, no training programme is infallible.

The selectors, according to Miller, showed wisdom regarding Coe but did not with regard to Sly. After a good debate it was agreed that it was not considered desirable for a woman to be in the double event, the distance events of 3,000 and 10,000 metres in Seoul, a rule that had already been applied to McColgan. To deprive Jane

Shields of a place so that Sly could run the longer distance "for experience" would not have been right.

It is Miller's personal attacks on Steve Cram and Peter Elliott over the Coe affair that I, and I believe many others, found objectionable. The Samaranch initiative was a sentimental nonsense that under the harsh light of logic fell down. Of course Steve Cram was right, and to equate an athlete receiving for the first time in the history of the modern Games a place in an event for which he had not been selected by his country with receiving a hire car from someone who didn't at the time need two is, to use David Miller's word, bizarre.

Worse is his remark that Coe and Elliott had "identical educational opportunities in Sheffield", the inference unfortunate, the motive clear. Elliott has behaved in this whole affair with dignity.

I am sure these two great athletes will treat the remarks appropriately, answering by their actions on the track. No one is greater than the sport itself; no one is above proving himself against his fellows. The Olympic fraternity (apart from the IOC itself) is not some masonic order. There are no important issues to arise from this extraordinary furore.

Boris Becker when he lost his first match at Wimbledon said: "I haven't lost a war, I've lost a tennis match." It is a sentiment we would all do well to remember.

TONY WARD,
British Amateur Athletic Board, Francis Street, SW1

Channel canoe

From Mr Michael Marshall
Sir, I am sure that in this country, at least, many find the concept of racing from London to Paris under one's own steam highly appealing. However, as an inspection of many of the swimming performances at conventional triathlons suggests, only a minute minority could realistically expect to swim the Channel en route in the manner of Krasny Kostov (August 17).

May I suggest that as an alternative records be set by combining running, canoeing and cycling. Such a combination may be widely popular among triathletes, both for epics such as the London to Paris, and as a truly long distance water-borne leg to compare with running and cycling in conventional triathlons. If tandem and double-seater racing canoes were adopted, two-man team events would bring a new dimension to the sport.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MARSHALL,
24 Hunts Mead,
Chippingham, Wiltshire.

The odd men out

From Mr M. Noton
Sir, Who are the odd ones out in this group of Test match personnel: the players, the umpires, the groundsmen, the scorers, the managers?

The scorers, of course, being the only team members who receive no recognition or mementoes for officiating in a Test match or certain trophy finals. A recent example was the scorer of a touring team who was devastated to find that only he was

omitted from the team (including the baggage man) presented to the royal party at Lord's.

Scorers are a dedicated and skilled group of men, many unpaid, who spend long hours on duty, travelling, and compiling essential statistics. I'm sure they do not want a lot of fuss, but a little recognition would not come amiss.

Yours faithfully,
M. NOTON,
5 Brook Croft,
North Aston,
Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Stop pacemaking

From Mr M. W. Jeffreys
Sir, Is it not time to bar the inevitable middle-distance pacemaker at all these pre-Olympic "Dream Mile" and other heavily-hyped televised athletics meetings?

Or, if not, why not do it properly and have one coasting round for only two laps to arrive at the bell with the leaders and pace them for the last lap? I know that may be a bit difficult, but I don't suppose it would be acceptable if he just hopped on to the track when the first pacemaker (inevitably) runs out and never finishes — although at least he must be first in the queue for the expenses.

Yours etc.,
M. W. JEFFREYS,
Windermere, Cumbria.

From Mr J. A. Cummings
Sir, I rubbed my eyes in disbelief, when I read that a professional footballer, who had refused a breath test, had not been allowed to drive, because of his "exemplary footballing career" (early editions August 25).

Are we now to assume that exemplary performance in one's chosen profession is to be accepted by the judiciary as constituting "special circumstances", when a driving disqualification would otherwise be mandatory? Or does such dispensation apply only to highly paid footballers?

I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. CUMMINGS,
Broad, Gloucestershire.

Golf building unsuitable

From the Chairman, St Andrews Preservation Trust
Sir, A proposal to build a golf museum in St Andrews put me in mind of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club has met with almost total opposition from local organizations, townspeople and many golfers, including R and A members themselves, and deserves wider publicity.

The proposed building is on a massive scale, in a totally unsympathetic modern design. It is unsuited to the proposed location on a piece of public land gifted to the town, the famous, historic, and beautiful Old Course.

Few designs could be appropriate to that particular site: the new building would look wholly inappropriate alongside the classical splendour of the R and A clubhouse itself.

Historic buildings, just as much as historic buildings, deserve preservation. The current museum proposal would be a tragedy for St Andrews as the building would block famous views of the Old Course, the West Sands, the R and A itself, and this part of St Andrews.

Unfortunately, the R and A has promoted its new development in heavy-handed fashion, attempting to override all local opposition. R and A members are no longer a group of local golfing enthusiasts. They include many important and famous individuals around the world. It is time they shed the information about the proposals of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews Preservation Trust, which has apparently been established to receive funds to promote the development.

This trust has nothing to do with St Andrews Preservation Trust, the first trust set up to preserve what is left of the preserve that is left in St Andrews, and to ensure new developments are on a scale and of a design appropriate to such an historic environment.

Yours faithfully,
EDWINA V. W.
PROUDFOOT (Chairman, The St Andrews Preservation Trust), Westgate, St Andrews, Fife.

Very true, and Hick's talent in particular makes it seem certain he will eventually take his place with some very famous names of the past. If I mention Hutton (much in the news recently) and other talented batsmen of the 1938 series — Edrich, Leyland, Compton, Paynter, Hardstaff and Hammond — they did not need four-day county matches to make them into the great players they all were. The four-day matches we are threatened with are unlikely to unearth a great reservoir of untapped talent. With even fewer first-class fixtures, all it will do is hasten the demise of such lovely smaller grounds as Aberystwyth.

That would indeed be a tragedy for the game, and a disaster for all "true" counties — i.e. those using several venues, not just one ground and perhaps one taken match elsewhere. The proposal of just eight home matches per season is appalling.

Yours truly,
J. A. SIMPSON,
125 Skegby Lane,
Mossfield, Nottingham.

Exemplary career

From Mr J. A. Cummings
Sir, I rubbed my eyes in disbelief, when I read that a professional footballer, who had refused a breath test, had not been allowed to drive, because of his "exemplary footballing career" (early editions August 25).

Are we now to assume that exemplary performance in one's chosen profession is to be accepted by the judiciary as constituting "special circumstances", when a driving disqualification would otherwise be mandatory? Or does such dispensation apply only to highly paid footballers?

I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. CUMMINGS,
Broad, Gloucestershire.

Threat to grounds

From Mr J. A. Simpson
Sir, Mr Clark (August 25), endorsing your correspondent's delight at the Aberystwyth ground, goes on to mention the quality of the batting of Hick and Maynard.

Very true, and Hick's talent in particular makes it seem certain he will eventually take his place with some very famous names of the past. If I mention Hutton (much in the news recently) and other talented batsmen of the 1938 series — Edrich, Leyland, Compton, Paynter, Hardstaff and Hammond — they did not need four-day county matches to make them into the great players they all were. The four-day matches we are threatened with are unlikely to unearth a great reservoir of untapped talent. With even fewer first-class fixtures, all it will do is hasten the demise of such lovely smaller grounds as Aberystwyth.

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Yours truly,
J. A. SIMPSON,
125 Skegby Lane,
Mossfield, Nottingham.

Praise and blame

From Mr William Harriman
Sir, Simon Barnes (Diary, August 27) quotes Sir Gary Sobers, probably the finest cricketer who ever played, as being known to say that if he had his time again he would be a groundsman. That you have caught in your golf you take all the praise and all the blame yourself. Not so, say I, for monthly the golfing fraternity with whom I brush shoulders blame fate for any lame or impotent play but believe personally responsible when they achieve a victory.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM EDWARDS,
Bridge House,
Tonypandy,
Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan.

Keeping play going

From Mr R. G. J. Cavendish
Sir, The cricket spectator these days seems to see less and less action for his money. There are fewer overs per day, and it seems, more stoppages. I believe that most of the stoppages for bad light could be eliminated by a simple change to the laws of cricket.

At present, when the umpires consider the light to be poor enough to warrant coming off the field, due to the danger to the batsmen, they offer the light to the batting side. In many cases the offer would not be made if slow bowlers were bowling.

I propose that the umpires inform the fielding captain of their intentions. He would then have the opportunity to replace the fast bowling with slow

Young cricket talent ignored

From Mr Peter Cash
Sir, Andrew Longmore ("A net bulging with raw talent", August 13) obtains questions from John Brown (Derbyshire's director of coaching), Colin Brown (Derbyshire's chairman of ESCA) and Philip Russell (Derbyshire's county coach) to the effect that "initial contact" between schools and counties is difficult to make. "Often, Brown says, the school will have to be told by a local club when it has a talented cricketer in its midst."

Until 1985 I was master-in-charge of the 1st XI at Trent College in Derbyshire: not once — to my knowledge — did any of these gentlemen come to watch a 1st XI match on Trent's beautiful ground, even though it is situated only 10 miles from their headquarters in Derby.

Simon Barnes ("Schools expose a gulf in thinking", August 25) writes about the Sir Garfield Sobers Tournament being held on Barbados: "One of the Bajan schoolboys in last year's competition had already played for Barbados." He means Roland Holder. In 1986 Trent College's

Appalling prospect

From Mrs J. Prophet
Sir, Further to Ian McIntyre's article "Ruling the waves lengths" (August 23), may I point out the existence of a time-bomb contained in the BBC's loss of the Radio 3 medium frequency?

This is nothing less than the loss of *Test Match Special*, the sports programme that provides ball-by-ball commentary on all Test matches, plus informed comment, background discussion and much much more as devotees will know. Because Radio 3 is primarily a music and drama network its controller, John Drummond, considers that *Test Match Special* should probably transfer to Radio 2, where it will have to take its place within other sports coverage and share the air time in the same way as cricket does on *Grandstand* at the moment.

What an appalling prospect and what a waste of such a splendid team of broadcasters, carefully assembled and produced to such perfection over the years — summer may be said

to begin and end with their first and last broadcasts, irrespective of the vagaries of the weather. This unique programme not only provides the accurate and detailed match commentary that is its primary purpose, but also adds general and background information, together with witty and wide-ranging discussion that makes the long periods of no-play as interesting listening as when the players are actually on the field.

Its appeal attracts a comprehensive audience of cricket aficionados, interested amateurs and those who simply enjoy the sounds and scene of the archetypal English summer game — may I even suggest it helps to foster interest in cricket among children by bringing it so entertainingly into the home?

Let not such a glory of British broadcasting perish in the proposed reorganization: much more than a sports programme would be lost.

Yours truly,
J. PROPHET,
Little Courtlands,
Epsom Lane South,
Tadworth, Surrey.

Keeping play going

From Mr R. G. J. Cavendish
Sir, The cricket spectator these days seems to see less and less action for his money. There are fewer overs per day, and it seems, more stoppages. I believe that most of the stoppages for bad light could be eliminated by a simple change to the laws of cricket.

Cram optimistic despite latest injury to tendon

From a Special Correspondent, Rieti

Steve Cram's Olympic preparation took a turn for the worse in the tiny stadium of Rieti, in Italy, last night. Cram, strongly fancied to win medals in both the 800 metres and the 1,500 metres in Seoul, staggered off the track in a 1,000 metres race, with an injury to his right leg.

A crowd quickly formed round Cram as he lay on the infield for 15 minutes while the injury was looked at. The exit from the race was dramatic enough to have suggested that the injury was a severe one, but Cram played down the extent of any damage. "I just felt a sharp pain in the Achilles tendon in the right leg. I think it's just a small muscle tear. If it was serious, I wouldn't be walking."

Cram, who returns to England tomorrow, will see a physiotherapist to determine the precise nature of the injury. He was optimistic here that it might mean as little as a couple of days without racing, and pointed out that would not affect his preparation.

Until the injury struck, Cram had been running close to a world record schedule. He passed 400 metres in 52.49sec, paced by Lewis Johnson, the

American, and reached the half-way mark in 1min 46.09sec. If he had sustained that pace, he would probably have finished within a second of the world record of 2min 12.18sec, held by Sebastian Coe.

Coe himself was quick to see the implications. "I pray to God he's all right; the last thing I would not want to do is get to the Olympics with one of our lads being injured," Coe's form in the 1,500 metres, which he preferred to the 800 metres he was originally down for, did not show him at his authoritative best.

He faced Steve Crabb, already assured of Olympic selection, and it must have disquieted the English athlete to find the Olympic 1,500 metres champion on the starting line next to him. "I feel sorry for Steve Crabb," Peter Elliott said. He was right. Nobody, amongst the middle-distance men, wants to race Coe at the moment. Whatever their plans, it just doesn't look good if they are beaten.

However, neither Coe nor Crabb could match the performance of the young Italian, Gennaro di Napoli. While Crabb was watching Coe, who was watching Adrian Passey,

another Briton, Napoli sprinted round them all for victory in 3min 34.73sec, comfortably his fastest time, while Coe could manage only 3min 35.72sec in third. "I was a bit leg-weary tonight," Coe said, and that was how it looked.

Peter Elliott was one Briton who could feel more than happy with his evening's work. His 800 metres was beautifully paced: through 400 metres at 49.34sec, to set the 25-year-old Rotherham athlete up for his fastest time of the year. He pulled clear of Wolverhampton's Tony Morrell, to win in 1min 44.19sec, his fourth-fastest ever. Morrell, with 1min 44.61sec, was just 0.02sec outside his best. "I didn't want to go out negative," Elliott said. "I wanted to go out with confidence."

RESULTS: Men 1000m: B Cooper (USA), 1:52.49; 2: J Jefferson (USA), 2:07.00; 3: P Elliott (GB), 2:14.19; 4: S Coe (GB), 2:14.61; 5: D Salda (ITA), 2:14.72; 6: A Passey (GB), 2:14.73; 7: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 8: W Kirch (West), 2:14.72; 9: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 10: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 11: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 12: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 13: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 14: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 15: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 16: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 17: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 18: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 19: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 20: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 21: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 22: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 23: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 24: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 25: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 26: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 27: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 28: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 29: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 30: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 31: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 32: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 33: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 34: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 35: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 36: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 37: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 38: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 39: S Coe (GB), 2:14.72; 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